



FAX ALERT!

NMA EXTRA TRIMMINGS

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To: NMA Members

Fr: Rosemary Mucklow, NMA Executive Director

Re: BSE-Positive Cow Originated in Canada

January 6, 2004

Today it was announced that the BSE-positive cow detected in the United States originated in Canada. DNA testing results conducted in Canada confirmed that the index cow came from a dairy in Alberta.

The Alberta herd consisted of 86 milking cows and 16 heifers. As previously reported, 81 of the animals from that herd, including the index cow, entered the U.S. on September 4, 2001 through the Oroville, WA port. Seventeen animals from that Alberta herd, one of which is the offspring of the index cow, were held in Canada for a second export shipment to the U.S., but some remained in Canada. Those cows that remained in Canada are now under detention.

As previously reported, three facilities in the U.S. are now under state hold orders. The first is the index herd in Washington from which the positive cow departed immediately before slaughter. The second is a nearby facility that has the index cow's recently born bull calf, and the third is the dairy operation in Mattawa, WA. No animals from any of the three quarantined farms in the U.S. have been destroyed yet, but the bull calf operation is to be depopulated this week. Those 450 calves will be transported to a slaughter facility not currently in use. None of those animals will enter the human food chain, and none of the product from those animals will go into a rendered product.

On a related note, NMA has learned that, consistent with Canadian's SRM rule, the vertebral column portion with meat attached - other than the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum - would have to be removed from animals 30 months or older. Therefore, bone-in chuck products, and many bone-in short loin products, such as T-bone steak, from cattle 30 months or older would be prohibited. However, semi-boneless loin products that only have the transverse process or wings of the sacrum present would be permitted.

Technical teleconferences will be conducted on an as-needed basis. Visit <http://www.usda.gov/> for teleconference announcements and more information. We will continue to keep you informed.
