



FAX ALERT!

NMA EXTRA TRIMMINGS

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To: Beef Slaughterers

Fr: Rosemary Mucklow, NMA Executive Director

Re: Tuesday Teleconference

March 29, 2004

Senior APHIS officials have agreed to join a teleconference tomorrow, March 30, at 2:30 p.m. EST, for the purpose of telling the beef slaughter industry their plan for collection of samples for expanded BSE surveillance testing. Under Secretary Bill Hawks will open the teleconference. Joining the call will be Dr. Ron deHaven, Chief Veterinary Officer for the United States, Dr. Lisa Ferguson, Dr. John Clifford and Dr. Randall Levings. Dr. Ken Peterson and Mr. Bill Smith from FSIS will also be on the call.

I will be joined by Ken Mastracchio, NMA Associate Director, Dr. Joe Harris of Southwest Meat Association, Brett Schwemmer of Olsson, Frank & Weeda, and James Hodges of AMI.

All participants will be in listen-only mode and will be informed how to ask questions by the operator. Each participant will be asked to identify company affiliation when checking in to the call.

The purpose of the teleconference is to provide beef slaughterers information about the process by which APHIS plans to collect and report results of testing of older normal livestock, and to clarify what products must be held pending test results. The kinds of questions that have arisen include whether testing of five a day could be accumulated to 25 on one day per week, making segregation of carcasses and other products that must be held pending results easier. Also, slaughterers are interested in turn-around time from cooperating laboratories for results, because this too impacts how plants handle the test and hold product.

It is not our intention in tomorrow's call to discuss other aspects of the expanded surveillance of animals that are not entering commerce, e.g. dead or disabled, at locations other than official establishments. We will continue to cooperate with APHIS and FSIS in the expanded surveillance activities, and to minimize burdensome impacts on the industry.

Call in information is as follows:

Call-in #: 888-455-2917

Passcode: BSE

Leader: DeHaven
