

# Enhanced Animal Health Protection from BSE

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as mad cow disease, is spread when cattle consume feed products contaminated with proteins from infected animals.

In infected cattle, BSE concentrates in certain tissues known as specified risk material (SRM). For public health protection, these tissues are removed from all cattle slaughtered for human consumption. To prevent BSE spread among cattle, the Government of Canada banned most proteins, including SRM, from cattle feed in 1997. Beginning July 12, 2007, enhanced animal health safeguards come into effect to help eliminate BSE from Canada. SRM are banned from all animal feeds, pet foods and fertilizers.



Removing SRM from the entire animal feed system addresses risks associated with the potential contamination of cattle feed during production, distribution, storage or use. Applying the same measure to pet food and fertilizer materials addresses the possible exposure of cattle and other susceptible animals to these products.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires that SRM be identified and appropriately managed until disposal. Permits are required for anyone handling, transporting or disposing of SRM, including:

- cattle producers;
- abattoirs;
- renderers;
- fertilizer, pet food and feed manufacturers;
- waste management facilities; and
- transporters.

This broad-based system maintains continuous control over SRM so that it no longer poses risks to animal health. With opportunities for BSE spread minimized, Canada is accelerating its progress toward the eventual eradication of the disease from the national cattle herd.

For more information on Canada's BSE safeguards, contact the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 or visit [www.inspection.gc.ca/bse](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/bse).