



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Spain

### Livestock and Products

#### 72 th Case of BSE in Spain 2001

Approved by:

**Lloyd J. Fleck**

**U.S. Embassy**

Prepared by:

Diego Pazos

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#### Report Highlights:

**The Government of Spain (GOS) has confirmed seventy two cases of BSE since the disease was first detected on November 22, 2000. Although beef consumption fell by 60 percent in the two months afterwards, it has slowly recovered and now stands about 5 percent below the pre-BSE level. Spain's beef intervention stocks total about 62,993 tons.**

Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
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## Summary

The Ministry of Agriculture identified sixteen more cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) during the period August 7-November 20, 2001. This raises the total number of confirmed cases to seventy two since the disease was first detected in Spain on November 22, 2000. Beef consumption has risen noticeably during the last four months but remains about five percent below pre-BSE levels. No farmers' sales to intervention have been reported during the last few weeks.

## 72<sup>th</sup> Case of BSE in Spain.

Between August 7 and November 20, 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture reported that sixteen more cows were diagnosed with BSE. The information about the 16 additional cases is as follows:

Date of Confirmation	Region	Province	Town	Date of Birth
August 13, 2001	Asturias	Asturias	Mieres	1994
August 17, 2001	Baleares	Menorca	Ciudadella	1996
August 22, 2001	Asturias	Asturias	Tineo	01/31/1994
August 22, 2001	Asturias	Asturias	Tapia de Casariego	01/31/1995
Sept 3, 2001	Castilla Leon	Leon	Quintana del Castillo	10/30/1996
Sept 6, 2001	Castilla Leon	Zamora	Matilla de Arzon	04 /02/94
Sept 13, 2001	Cantabria	Cantabria	Entrambasaguas	October, 1996
Sept 13, 2001	Galicia	Preense	Sant Cristovo de Cea	04/30/1995
Sept 14, 2001	Cataluña	Barcelona	Gurb	08/05/1995
Sept 21, 2001	Castilla Leon	Leon	Santa Marina del Rey	07/01/1994
October 4, 2001	Galicia	A Coruña	Laracha	03/30/1994
October 16, 2001	Galicia	A Coruña	Santiso	03/30/1994
October 17, 2001	Navarra	Navarra	Irure Valle de Estibar	12/08/1994
October 10, 2001	Asturias	Asturias	Cangas de Onis	12/31/1993
November 11, 2001	Baleares	Mallorca	Villafranca de Bonay	February, 1995
November 12, 2001	Castilla Leon	Avilla	Mombeltran	October 1996

The sixteen herds involved were slaughtered, tested and incinerated. Most of the cases detected so far have occurred in dairy herds in the northwestern quarter of the country, though other areas have also had cases as the

above list demonstrates. According to Spanish Health authorities, milk replacer could be the origin of the Spanish cases of BSE. So far, 4,171 cattle have been destroyed on farm with positive cases under the campaign against BSE. In addition, some 258,000 carcasses of cattle dying from natural causes have been also removed from the farms and incinerated.

The Spanish Ministry of Agriculture has in force a program to subsidize the destruction of 400,000 tons of bone and meat meal in CY 2001. The cost of controlling BSE could amount to 102 billion pesetas (\$539 million) for CY 2001.

By months the cases were as follows:

November, 2000	1
December, 2000	1
January, 2001	10
February, 2001	20
March, 2001	6
April, 2001	6
May, 2001	2
June, 2001	2
July, 2001	6
August, 2001	6
September, 2001	6
October, 2001	4
November, 2001	2
Total Cases	72

## BSE Testing Program

According to the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, some 310,489 tests were carried out by seventeen certified labs between December 22, 2000 and November 20, 2001. On average, one positive was detected for every 4,312 tests performed. Testing capacity is now about 12,000 tests per week.

## Purchase for Destruction Scheme

The EU's Purchase for Destruction Scheme expired in June, 2001. The program was underutilized in Spain because of the country's limited incineration capacity: only 56,252 cattle were destroyed.

The GOS has begun a program to destroy carcasses from bullfighting. According to the Spanish Ministry of Health some practices could contaminate the meat with risk material. According to trade sources about 6,000 carcasses (2,700 tons of beef) have been destroyed under this program in CY 2001.

Due to a lower production in the last few months, prices for beef and veal have been recovering. Prices for feeding calves are only 5 percent lower pre-BSE levels, while those for beef cattle have regained pre-BSE levels. Since the beginning of 2001, farmers have sold about 62,993 tons of beef to intervention mostly during the February-August, 2001 period. Due to higher prices for beef, no sales to intervention have been reported in the last few weeks. For all of CY 2001, production could decline by about 16 percent compared to CY 2000 due to decreased numbers of animals in feed lots and lower average carcass weights. Production could begin to rise starting in March 2002 due a larger number of animals in the feeding cycle.

## **Trade**

After minimal imports of live cattle during the January-April,2001 period, during the last few weeks Spain has increased imports of live cattle for feeding purposes. The forecast indicates a larger import of feeding calves for CY 2002.

## **Consum ption**

According to the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, beef consumption remains about 5 percent below the pre-BSE level. However, the Spanish Consumers Association believes consumption could be about 15 percent lower than the pre-BSE level.