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Germany

Pest/Disease Occurrences

BSE in Germany - Update Covering 2006

2007

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Report Highlights:

In 2006, 16 cases of BSE were confirmed in Germany, compared to 32 in 2005. This brings the total number of BSE cases to 405, since it was first detected in Germany in November 2000. In June 2006, Germany abolished its stricter BSE testing requirements and replaced it with the standard EU testing regime. Beef consumption is still below the pre-BSE level, primarily because of healthier consumer eating habits rather than fears of BSE.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

In 2006, 16 cases of BSE were confirmed in Germany, compared to 32 in 2005. The German Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food, and Agriculture (BMELV) views this as a clear sign that the measures taken to combat BSE are effective.

As of December 31, 2006, the total number of confirmed BSE cases in Germany amounted to 405 cases. Of the total, 7 cases were detected in 2000, 125 cases in 2001, 106 cases in 2002, 54 cases in 2003, 65 cases in 2004, 32 cases in 2005, and 16 in 2006. The geographical distribution of the confirmed cases is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Geographical distribution of confirmed BSE cases in Germany, as of December 31, 2006.

State	Number of confirmed BSE cases								Number of cattle in that state*
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total	
Bavaria	5	59	27	21	21	7	3	143	3,559,500
Lower-Saxony	1	17	27	7	14	2	5	73	2,542,500
Baden-Wuerttemberg	-	12	11	9	6	6	3	47	1,068,300
Schleswig-Holstein	1	12	14	1	1	3	-	32	1,180,600
North Rhine-Westphalia	-	2	2	4	8	4	1	21	1,346,900
Brandenburg	-	3	4	3	3	3	1	17	575,100
Saxony	-	4	4	3	2	2	-	15	497,000
Rhineland-Palatinate	-	4	6	-	2	1	1	14	388,100
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	-	2	4	-	3	2	1	12	526,300
Hesse	-	3	2	2	2	2	-	11	472,800
Saxony-Anhalt	-	4	4	1	1	-	-	10	338,700
Thuringia	-	2	1	3	2	-	1	9	353,000
Saarland	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	52,100
Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	17,700
Total	7	125	106	54	65	32	16	405	12,918,600

* Based on an animal census November 2005

(Source: German Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection, BMELV)

BSE tests

In 2006, a total of 1,888,053 animals were tested for BSE in Germany, of which 16 BSE cases were confirmed. Of the total, eight cases were discovered through routine testing at slaughter. The other eight cases were detected through mandatory testing of "risk animals"¹.

¹ Risk animals, include deceased animals, animals that died on transport, downers (i.e. non-ambulatory animals), animals that show any kind of disease symptoms, animals that show clinical BSE symptoms, or were part of destroyed herds or cohorts of a previously confirmed BSE case (birth cohort = animals born on the same farm within 12 months before or after the birth; feeding cohort = animals that were raised together with animal with confirmed BSE within the first 12 months of life of the latter, all offspring).

The EU requires BSE testing for all risk animals above 24 months of age, while routine testing of healthy appearing animals is only required for cattle older than 30 months².

From January 25, 2001 through June 26, 2006, Germany imposed a stricter cattle testing regime than the EU. It included mandatory BSE tests at slaughter for all cattle above the age of 24 months, irrespective of its risk status. In June 2006, Germany abolished the additional requirements and replaced it with the standard EU testing regime.

The German slaughter houses had lobbied the German government (GOG) for quite some time to do away with the additional testing requirements because it impacted the competitiveness of the German meat industry vis-a-vis its European competitors. According to BMELV estimates, the additional costs for BSE testing of animals between 24 and 30 months had amounted to between U.S. \$ 5 and 6 million³ (4 to 5 million Euro⁴) in 2004 and 2005. This put the German meat industry at a disadvantage compared to their EU competitors, whose mandatory testing age started at 30 months. However, only the decreasing BSE incidents, as well as the increasing time that elapsed since the ban on meat and bone meal (MBM) in animal feed went into effect in December 2000 made the GOG feel comfortable enough to revoke the stricter testing mandate. For more information on the abolition of the additional testing requirements please see GM6020⁵

Table 2: BSE tests and results from January through December 2006

January - December 2006	Number of tests	Number of confirmed BSE cases	Percent cases per tests in that category*	Percent cases of all confirmed cases**
Animal Category				
Deceased animals	219,179	8	0.004	50
Put-down animals	12,611	0	0.000	0
Animals showing clinical BSE symptoms	24	0	0.000	0
Animals appearing healthy at slaughter	1,654,162	8	0.000	50
Animals slaughtered as part of a BSE eradication measure	305	0	0.000	0
Suspicious animals to be confirmed by a lab	1,772	0	0.000	0
Total	1,888,053	16	0.001	100

* calculated as "number of confirmed cases" divided by "number of tests" in that category multiplied by 100

** calculated as "number of confirmed cases" in a category divided by "total number of confirmed cases" multiplied by 100

Source: German Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection (BMELV)

Risk Management by the German Government

For a detailed outline of the German risk management system please refer to report GM1033.

² For details on the EU testing regime please refer to the following website:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/2001/R/02001R0999-20060709-en.pdf>, page22

³ Exchange rate as of January 29, 2007: 1 US\$ = 0.772 Euro; 1 Euro = US\$ 1.2952.

⁴ Calculation based on average costs for a BSE test of 16.250 Euro and the number of animals slaughtered between the age of 24 and 30 months in the years of 2004 and 2005.

⁵ <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200606/146198017.pdf>

Production

In CY 2005⁶, Germany produced 1.167 million MT of beef. 310,000 MT of beef were imported, thereof 89,200 MT from outside the EU-25 (mainly Argentina and Brazil). Exports amounted to 519,500 MT, of which 52,400 MT were sent to destinations outside the EU-25 (mostly Russia and Tunisia). Note: All figures are in carcass weight equivalent.

Table 3: German production of beef

Year	Slaughter number (in 1000 heads)	Beef production (in 1000 metric tons)
1999	4,565	1,374
2000	4,285	1,304
2001	4,353	1,360
2002	4,272	1,317
2003	3,961	1,224
2004	4,141	1,263
2005	3,773	1,167

Source: German Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection (BMELV)

Table 4: German Beef Trade in 2005

Year	Beef Imports from (in MT CWT)	Beef Exports to (in MT CWT)
EU 25	220,800	467,100
Extra EU 25	89,200	52,400
Total	310,000	519,500

Source: GTA converted with FAS conversion rates for the EU.

Consumption

Due to consumer concerns about BSE, per capita consumption of beef dropped from 10.4 kg in 1999 to 6.8 kg in 2001⁷. In 2005, per capita consumption amounted to 8.4 kg. Meat consumption is expected to have remained stable in 2006. Meat consumption is not projected to reach pre-BSE consumption levels again in the near future. However, this is because of a trend towards healthier eating habits rather than consumers fearing BSE.

⁶ Latest available data. Figures for 2006 will only become available in March 2007.

⁷ In 2000, per capita consumption was recorded at 9.6 kg. However, as BSE was detected in November of 2000, this year cannot serve as a comparison.

Related reports:

Number	Date Released	Title
GM6020	06/19/2006	Germany Raises BSE Testing Age to EU Level http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200606/146198017.pdf
GM6004	02/16/2006	Germany plans to adjust BSE testing age to EU level http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200602/146176859.pdf
GM6003	01/27/2006	BSE in Germany - Update Covering 2005 http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200601/146176673.pdf
GM3006	02/27/2003	German Cattle Identification and Beef Labeling http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200302/145884797.pdf
GM1033	11/27/2001	One year after the detection of BSE in Germany (Includes a detailed outline of the German risk management system) http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200111/135682795.pdf