



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Australia

Livestock and Products

Australia Extends European Beef Ban 2001

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Report Highlights:

The Australian Government has extended the 1996 suspension of British beef imports to include the importation of foods containing beef or beef products from 29 other European countries.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Canberra [AS1], AS

The Australian Government has extended the 1996 suspension of British beef imports to include the importation of foods containing beef or beef products from 29 other European countries following reports that more countries in Europe may be affected by Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in their cattle. The suspension was implemented in conjunction with the New Zealand Government. The suspension and withdrawal of goods from shelves commenced on January 8, 2001.

There are small but significant amounts of these foods on the Australian market. Australia imports around 1000 MT of products containing European beef per annum, which accounts for less than half a percent of beef consumed annually in Australia. No fresh beef has been imported into Australia from Europe for at least two years. Foods already in transit will be prevented from entering Australia. Tallow and cosmetics are not affected by this new measure and are still allowed entry under previous conditions.

Products to be removed from sale are generally imported specialty goods and include luncheon meats, pate, frankfurters, soups, salami, stock cubes and canned beef products. The European countries affected by this suspension are: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Australia and New Zealand have agreed that following the suspension and voluntary withdrawal of product from sale, a formal certification process will be established to assess future imports to ensure they are BSE free.