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Slovenia

Livestock and Products

BSE Report

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Report Highlights: This report provides background on Slovenia's first reported case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), trade statistics for high risk materials, consumption data, and government contact data. A copy of a new BSE regulation covering gelatin is also provided as Appendix III.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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First BSE case in Slovenia

On November 12, 2001, a Western blot (prionics) test performed by the Slovene Veterinary Institute came back positive on a five year old cow from northern Slovenia. Samples were also sent to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) reference laboratory for BSE (The Institute of Animal Neurology, University of Bern (Switzerland)). The samples were confirmed as BSE positive on November 20. The cow came from a small farm in northern Slovenia's upper Savinska Valley, about 40 km from the capital Ljubljana and was initially brought to market because she was off her feed. The cow comes from stock originating in Slovenia and the farmer claims that he never used meat and bone meal as a feed. Slovenia's required OIE disease notification may be found at:

http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS_43.HTM#Sec2

Testing

Slovenia started to perform diagnostic tests (patohistologic analysis) in 1991 and since 1992, all animals where clinical signs of central nervous system malady is diagnosed have been tested.

Starting in 1996, random test for animals older than 36 months were introduced. Testing further intensified in January 2000, when 700 conventional histological tests were performed in response to reported instances of BSE in Germany and Italy. In February, 2001, 'quick' post mortem testing (prionic tests) for all slaughtered animals older than 30 months became mandatory. As of November 20, 2001, 27,286 tests have been performed.

The majority of domestic animals slaughtered in Slovenia are between 18 and 23 months old. 20,000 to

35,000 cattle out of the 150,000 to 160,000 slaughtered in Slovenia annually are older than 30 months and will be tested.

The Official Slovene BSE-Testing Lab is:

Slovene Veterinary Institute
Gerbiceva 60
1000 Ljubljana
tel +386 1 4779101
fax +386 1 2832290
Point of Contact: Prof Janez Marinsek

BSE Measures

To prevent the spread of the disease, the government is using the 'British' model and is killing only direct descendants of the infected cow. The only offspring of this cow has been killed but the prionic tests were negative.

Starting in 1996, meat and bone meal was banned as a feed for ruminants and at the end of 2000 the ban was extended to all animal feeds. Also beginning in 2000, the government began to require that all 'specified risk' (e.g. brain, spinal cord, etc.) animal parts must be destroyed.

To prevent importing BSE into the country, Slovenia has banned the import of all bovine meat and products from the following countries:

- 1991: Great Britain
- 1996: Ireland, France, Switzerland and Portugal
- 1998: Belgium and the Netherlands
- 2000: Germany, Spain and Denmark
- 2001: Italy

EU Commission Still Has Faith in Slovene Vet Service

The EU is using a controversial classification system to quantify the risk of BSE for many countries. Slovenia's 'II' ranking was assigned in May 2001 and is the best ranking in central and eastern Europe. The Slovene Government predicts that the recent case of BSE will not influence the EU's decision to classify Slovenia from group II to group III. (For a complete report on the EU's classification of Slovenia, see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/ssc/out210_en.pdf)

Slovenia's veterinary regulators are generally well respected and considered to be professional. The staff responsible for testing and diagnosing BSE have been educated at the World Reference Laboratory in Weybridge, United Kingdom. Points of contact for the testing lab and for veterinary officials are provided in the last section of this report. As if to underscore the EU Commission's

continued faith in the Slovene Vet Service, on December 11, 2001, Slovenia became the only EU-accession candidate to conclude the negotiations on veterinary and plant health issues.

Consumption & Trade

Slovenia's two largest cattle export markets, Bosnia and Croatia, have cut off imports. This has put further pressure on the beef market, which earlier in 2001 had already begun to decline due to BSE and FMD outbreaks in other European countries. Overall, sales in 2001 are down an estimated 30-40% over 2000 and further decline is possible. One poll in November claimed that one in six Slovenes has stopped eating beef altogether. However, in another poll, 70% of those questioned (951 out of 1900) answered that they trust the Slovene Veterinary Administration's declaration that Slovene meat is safe. On the same question in November 2000, only 48% answered positively.

Average Annual Household Beef Consumption

Kilograms

1990	13.5
1995	11.1
1996	11.0
1997	14.7
1998	11.9
1999	11.0
2000*	11.0
2001*	8.0

* estimate

Slovenia mainly imports calves, with the majority coming from eastern European countries like Hungary and Poland. Imports of beef and cattle for slaughter is around 2000 tons per year. Complete trade data on live cattle and beef are provided in appendices I and II.

Trade in Meat and Bone Meal and the Market for Substitutes

Slovenia Imports of Meat and Bone Meal (HS 2301.10)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons
Austria	259	189	454	104	409	121
Croatia	40	208	41	199	24	0
Germany	0	0	1	0	0	0
Italy	0	58	60	0	0	0
World	299	474	555	303	432	122

Slovenia Exports of Meat and Bone Meal (HS 2301.10)

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
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	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons
Austria	21	0	0	0	0	20
Bosnia- Herzegovina	0	0	5	0	10	189
Croatia	607	416	390	913	1,310	1,318
Italy	42	40	0	0	0	0
World	670	456	395	913	1,321	1,527

In Slovenia, there is only one plant for processing animal waste, and on average about 3,600 tons per month are converted into meat and bone meal. Production from this plant is now incinerated. The loss of meat and bone meal as a protein source means that Slovenia will now be forced to import an additional 50,000 MT of protein meal (probably soybean meal) annually.

Other Sources of Information

1. More information on BSE measures in Slovenia may be found at:

http://www.sigov.si/vurs/index_en.htm

2. Slovenia's Chief Veterinarian is:

Dr. Zoran Kovac

Chief Veterinary Officer

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

Parmova 53

1000 Ljubljana Slovenia

tel. + 386 (1) 300 1300/1315, fax. 386 1 4 36 32 14

Appendix I: Imports of live animals from 1995-2001

Year	Type of Animal	Country	Number per Country
1995	Breeding bulls	GERMANY	2
	Breeding cows	GERMANY	100
	Breeding young cattle	FRANCE	175
		HUNGARY	20
	Fattening Bulls for slaughtering	AUSTRIA	1
		HUNGARY	417
		GERMANY	18
		NETHERLANDS	235
		POLAND	125
	Fattening Cows for slaughtering	AUSTRIA	34
		HUNGARY	1,247
		POLAND	95
	Fattening Young cattle for slaughtering, fattening 200-280kg	CZECH R.	3,640
		ITALY	96
		HUNGARY	8,602
		POLAND	629
		SLOVAK R.	115
	Fattening Young cattle for slaughtering, fattening 280-450kg	HUNGARY	1,423
		POLAND	619
	Fattening Young cattle for slaughtering,	AUSTRIA	20
		HUNGARY	4,967
		NETHERLANDS	218
		POLAND	764
	Fattening calves for slaughtering,	CZECH R.	251
		HUNGARY	4,256
	Other cattle	POLAND	2,418
		SLOVAK R.	144
		HUNGARY	99
		POLAND	60
	1995 Total		30,790
1996	Breeding cows	AUSTRIA	33
	fattening Cows for slaughtering,	AUSTRIA	310
	fattening Bulls for slaughtering,	HUNGARY	10,785
		POLAND	750

		CZECH R.	2,063
		SLOVAK R.	318
	Fattening calves for slaughtering	HUNGARY	10,217
		POLAND	2,126
		CZECH R.	947
		SLOVAK R.	489
		1996 Total	28,038
1997	Breeding cows	AUSTRIA	34
	fattening Cows for slaughtering	CZECH R.	33
	fattening Bulls for slaughtering,	HUNGARY	7,872
		POLAND	829
		CZECH R.	17,435
		SLOVAK R.	402
	Fattening calves for slaughtering	HUNGARY	10,358
		POLAND	4,868
		CZECH R.	1,104
		SLOVAK R.	982
		1997 Total	43,917
1998	Breeding cows	AUSTRIA	8
		GERMANY	26
		NETHERLANDS	213
	fattening Bulls for slaughtering,	HUNGARY	6,557
		POLAND	4,812
		CZECH R.	1,790
		SLOVAK R.	326
	Fattening calves for slaughtering	HUNGARY	2,573
		POLAND	9,779
		CZECH R.	1,298
		SLOVAK R.	858
		1998 Total	28,240
1999	Breeding cows	AUSTRIA	4
		DANMARK	292
		GERMANY	361
	Breeding bulls	ITALY	4
	fattening Bulls for slaughtering,	HUNGARY	7,876
		POLAND	7,458
		CZECH R.	1,881
		SLOVAK R	416

2000	Fattening calves for slaughtering	HUNGARY	3,743
		POLAND	10,181
		CZECH R.	793
		SLOVAK R.	751
	1999 Total		33,760
	Breeding cows	DENMARK	290
		GERMANY	319
	Breeding bulls	ITALY	10
	Fattening bulls	HUNGARY	3,138
		POLAND	32,303
		CZECH R.	716
		SLOVAK R.	155
	Bulls for slaughtering	HUNGARY	3,749
		POLAND	5,814
2001	Fattening calves	HUNGARY	4,478
		POLAND	2,116
		CZECH R.	632
		SLOVAK R.	960
	calves for slaughtering	HUNGARY	1,753
		POLAND	9,185
	2000 Total		65,618
	Breeding cows	HUNGARY	5
		AUSTRIA	55
	Breeding calves	HUNGARY	22
	Fattening bulls	HUNGARY	2,268
		POLAND	343
		SLOVAK R.	394
		ROMANIA	50
		CZECH R.	122
	Bulls for slaughtering	HUNGARY	1,682
		POLAND	384
	Calves for fattening	HUNGARY	2,719
		POLAND	743
		SLOVAK R.	229
	Calves for slaughtering	HUNGARY	1,105
		POLAND	2,758
	2001 Total		12,879

2001 figures reflect animals imported through
Nov. 14

Total 1995 - 2001

236,803

Appendix II: Imports of Meat from 1996 - 20001

Year 1996		Number of	
Country	Type of meat	Shipments	KG
ARGENTINA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	6	85,838
AUSTRALIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	4	85,692
AUSTRIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	165	1,243,283
BELGIUM	Processed and Frozen Meat*	4	78,341
BULGARIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	3	14,623
CZECH R.	Processed and Frozen Meat*	1	2,137
DENMARK	Processed and Frozen Meat*	18	354,989
FRANCE	Processed and Frozen Meat*	12	188,490
CROATIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	34	90,578
ITALY	Processed and Frozen Meat*	121	1,235,565
CANADA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	2	46,763
HUNGARY	Processed and Frozen Meat*	1,606	17,255,711
FYROM	Processed and Frozen Meat*	5	17,971
GERMANY	Processed and Frozen Meat*	23	350,161
NETHERLANDS	Processed and Frozen Meat*	227	4,099,095
NEW ZEALAND	Processed and Frozen Meat*	1	4,448
POLAND	Processed and Frozen Meat*	3	42,937
ROMANIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	19	247,001
SLOVAK R.	Processed and Frozen Meat*	5	22,442
SWEDEN	Processed and Frozen Meat*	3	60,996
USA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	2	47,175
TOTAL		2,264	25,574,236

*Remark: 80 % is pork and rest is beef.

YEAR 1997			
Country	Type of meat	No. of shipments	KG
AUSTRIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	11	140,147
BELGIUM	Processed and Frozen Meat*	2	692
BULGARIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	3	26,292
CZECH R.	Processed and Frozen Meat*	6	70,573
FRANCE	Processed and Frozen Meat*	2	645
CROATIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	15	10,625
ITALY	Processed and Frozen Meat*	13	104,919
HUNGARY	Processed and Frozen Meat*	1,587	17,506,997
GERMANY	Processed and Frozen Meat*	8	155,848
POLAND	Processed and Frozen Meat*	13	213,434
ROMANIA	Processed and Frozen Meat*	18	202,557
BIH	Processed and Frozen Meat*	1	1,119
TOTAL		1,679	18,433,848

Country	Type of meat	No. of shipments	KG
ARGENTINA	beef	5	57,417
AUSTRIA	beef	10	50,774
ITALY	beef	25	402,640
GERMANY	beef	7	109,910
NETHERLANDS	beef	2	12,650

TOTAL	49	633,391
* Remark: 80 % is pork and rest is beef.		

Year 1998			
Country	Type of meat	No. of shipments	KG
ARGENTINA	beef	10	102,611
AUSTRIA	beef	28	180,682
CROATIA	beef	6	118,250
ITALY	beef	44	491,000
HUNGARY	beef	31	315,690
GERMANY	beef	10	146,640
NETHERLANDS	beef	2	14,858
POLAND	beef	4	74,688
TOTAL		135	1,444,419

Year 1999			
Country	Type of meat	No. of shipments	KG
ARGENTINA	beef	5	56,749
AUSTRIA	beef	5	66,619
ITALY	beef	16	225,562
HUNGARY	beef	16	212,268
GERMANY	beef	6	65,111
TOTAL		48	626,309

Year 2000			
Country	Type of meat	No. of shipments	KG
ARGENTINA	beef	2	33,103
AUSTRIA	beef	2	11,923
DENMARK	beef	1	5,184
ITALY	beef	8	114,730
HUNGARY	beef	3	31,479
GERMANY	beef	2	40,237
TOTAL		18	236,656

Year 2001			
Country	Type of meat	No. of shipments	KG
HUNGARY	beef	19	26,687
POLAND	beef	8	16,201
SWEDEN	beef	2	33,166
AUSTRIA	beef	4	23,692
TOTAL		33	99,746

Totals 1996 - 2001* 4,226 47,048,605

* For 1996 and 1997, trade data do not differentiate between pork and beef but it is estimated that 20% of these products are beef.

Note: FYROM refers to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Appendix III: New Gelatine Regulation

On November 30, the Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia published a new regulation covering gelatine imports. It is as follows:

On the basis of paragraph 1 of Article 21 of the Veterinary Practice Act (Ur. l. RS⁽¹⁾ 33/01), and in order to avoid the introduction and spread of contagious animal diseases from other countries and for the suppression thereof in the Republic of Slovenia, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia issues the following

DECISION

amending the Decision banning the import of certain consignments in order to avoid the introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

I

The Decision banning the import of certain consignments in order to avoid the introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Ur. l. RS 78/01) shall be amended as follows:

Paragraph 3 of Part II shall be substituted by the following wording:

“Import of collagen shall be allowed, when it has been obtained from hides and skins of animals that had been found fit for human consumption, and when it has been obtained by a procedure that includes the following stages:

- alkali treatment for at least 24 hours at a pH of 13, or another appropriate treatment in the interval of up to a pH not less than 11.5 for at least 48 hours,
- neutralisation,
- extraction by acid at a pH of 0.8 for at least 6 hours at ambient temperature, or another appropriate treatment in the interval of up to a maximum pH of 3.3 for at least 48 hours at ambient temperature,
- drying at a temperature of at least 80 °C.

Import of gelatine shall be allowed:

- when it has been obtained from hides and skins of bovine animals which have been found fit for human consumption, and when it has been obtained by acid or alkali treatment, followed by a single or several rinsing operations; the pH shall

subsequently be adjusted. Gelatine shall be extracted by a single or repeated consecutive heating operations, followed by cleansing through filtering and sterilisation procedures;

– when it has been obtained from the bones of mammalian animals which have been found fit for human consumption, and when it has been obtained by a procedure, where all bone material has fully been crushed and degreased by hot water and treated by dilute hydrochloric acid (at a minimum concentration of 4 % and a pH of

(1) Ur. l. RS – *Uradni list Republike Slovenije* – Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia

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<1.5) in a period of at least two days, followed by alkali treatment with saturated alkali solution (pH >12.5) in the period of at least 20 days, and a sterilisation procedure at 138 to 140 °C for 4 seconds.

Raw materials of bovine animals aged more than 30 months, used in the manufacture of gelatine and collagen, shall originate from animals which have been examined for the presence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.”.

The existing paragraphs 4 and 5 shall become paragraphs 5 and 6.

II

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the *Uradni list Republike Slovenije*.

No. 323 – 01– 40/01–1

Ljubljana, 12 November 2001.

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