



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Canada

Livestock

Botulism is Focus of Investigation into Cattle Deaths 1999

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Report Highlights:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has quarantined an Ontario cattle farm following the death of 32 head of cattle. According to the CFIA, the investigation is focusing on Botulism, Type D as the cause of death. Type D is rare and does not affect humans. The Agency confirms that none of the animals that died of the disease has entered the human food chain.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Ottawa[CA1], CA

The following recent press release outlines the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's response to the death of 32 head of cattle on a farm near Dashwood, Ontario (approximately 35 miles northwest of London, Ontario).

Begin Press Release

DASHWOOD FARM PLACED UNDER QUARANTINE

OTTAWA, December 2, 1999 - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has quarantined a cattle farm near Dashwood, Ontario, following the death of 32 cattle. The investigation is focusing on Botulism, Type D as the cause of death. Type D is rare and does not affect humans.

The Agency has confirmed that none of the animals that died of the disease entered the human food chain.

The CFIA is working with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), Health Canada and has informed the Ontario Ministry of Health. Officials from the CFIA and OMAFRA have begun an investigation into potential sources of the disease. Health Canada will provide laboratory support for testing.

The quarantine, imposed under The Health of Animals Act, will allow the Agency to keep close track of any animals that are removed from the farm until the disease is under control.

This particular strain of botulism causes respiratory paralysis in animals but rarely occurs in cattle. The bacteria can be spread from the carcasses of birds, rodents or other animals which have died in feed bins, hay bales or livestock drinking water.

Animals that have already died on the farm have been processed into pet food using high temperatures that kill off any harmful toxins. The Agency will be verifying that temperature controls used by the manufacturer are sufficient to make the pet food safe.

End Press Release.

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