



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## **Slovakia**

### **Livestock and Products**

#### **Slovak Measure to Prevent BSE**

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**Report Highlights:** Due to wide media coverage about BSE outbreaks in other countries, beef consumption has fallen by over a third in Slovakia. No cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or related diseases have been detected and Slovakia continues feeding domestic meat and bone meal to non-ruminants. Cattle exhibiting unusual behavior and so called 'emergency slaughter' animals are tested for BSE. Imports of cattle and cattle products from BSE countries are banned but there are no restrictions on imports from non-BSE countries. New rules on the destruction of specified risk material will probably be announced in the second half of 2001.

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

To protect Slovakia from BSE, the government has banned imports of live cattle, beef, and beef products from countries where BSE has been detected. Countries, which can prove that their BSE cases arise from first generation imported cattle may be regarded as BSE free.

Livestock imports have always been strictly monitored. Slovakia has 90 border checkpoints where documents and imported animals are clinically checked by official veterinarians. All imported livestock is quarantined for a period of 28 days. This period can be extended if the official veterinarian regards it as necessary.

Since Slovakia's independence in 1993, around 6,000 cattle have been imported into the country. Primary suppliers have been Germany and the Netherlands. The last registered cattle imports into Czechoslovakia from Great Britain occurred in 1981 and included three bulls. However, it is unknown if the cattle went to the territory which is now Slovakia or to the Czech Republic.

### Slovakia Live Cattle Imports (HS 10210 & 10290)

	Imports				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Austria	173	23	136	64	12
Belgium-Luxembourg	0	58	0	0	0
Canada	3	0	2	0	0
Czech Republic	66	32	52	82	16
Denmark	0	0	96	124	20
France	99	69	0	150	29
Germany	160	301	628	120	40
Hungary	0	30	130	0	0
Italy	1	0	43	158	16
Netherlands	577	621	134	0	0
Poland	58	16	0	4	144
Slovenia	0	3	0	0	0
Other	21	0	0	0	1
World	1,158	1,153	1,221	702	278

Source: FAS' Global Agricultural Trade System using data from the United Nations Statistical Office & Attache Estimates

## Meat and Bone Meal

Under the socialist regime, which ended in 1989, meat and bone meal (MBM) was not fed to ruminants. The central commission which planned the feed recipes, never included MBM in feed rations for ruminants because it was too expensive. For the same reason it was also not fed to ruminants after the fall of communism. Nevertheless, in 1994 a ban on MBM for ruminants was implemented.

MBM for feeding to non-ruminants was primarily imported from Austria (2,000 MT in 1999), which has been BSE free to date. Slovak importers require an import license for MBM which is valid for only for one year. Since Austria now incinerates all its offal, MBM imports stopped beginning January 2001.

Because no BSE or scrapie cases have been detected in Slovakia, domestic offal and animal carcasses are still rendered into MBM, which is fed to swine and poultry. About 23,000 MT of meat and bone meal was produced in 2001 but it is estimated that only about 16,000 MT will be produced in 2002 due to lower slaughter numbers and producer concern. It is also expected that in the second half of 2001 the government will pass new regulations concerning the incinerating of specified risk materials.

#### Slovakia Meat and Bone Meal Imports (HS 230110)

	Imports				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Metric Tons
Austria	938	626	800	651	2,016
Belgium-Luxembourg	0	24	514	686	0
Czech Republic	1	201	5	6	12
Denmark	18	5	0	0	0
Germany	355	10	54	30	5
Netherlands	0	3	0	0	0
Other	48	47	0	0	140
World	1,360	916	1,373	1,373	2,173

Source: FAS' Global Agricultural Trade System using data from the United Nations Statistical Office

#### BSE Testing

In 1996, Slovakia began testing for BSE. The brains of cattle exhibiting unusual behavior, cattle that are fallen, and so called 'emergency slaughter' animals are tested. It is expected that in May 2001, the government will introduce screening tests (probably prionics test) for these cattle. In addition, random screening test will be carried out with normally slaughtered cattle aged 30 months or more. As Slovakia has been free of BSE to date, the government does not regard it as necessary to test all slaughtered cattle above 30 months. In Slovakia, each year around 100,000 cattle are slaughtered of which about 30,000 are older than 30 months old. However, this could change as Slovakia adopts more EU-based regulations as part of Slovakia bid to become an EU member. It is expected that costs of all planned measures including logistics and technical installations in slaughter houses will be about 600 million Slovak crowns (about \$12.5 million).

In the event that a BSE case is one day discovered, the government has an action plan. If a case is discovered, a commission, which was organized in January 2001, will become active. The commission includes representatives of the Agricultural Ministry, Interior Ministry, Health Ministry, Slovak Academy of Science, and the department for virus diseases at the Institute for Preventive Medicine (under the Health Ministry).

#### Consequences for U.S. Exports:

Slovakia acknowledges the U.S. as BSE free and thus cattle and/or cattle product exports have not been affected by Slovak BSE preventative measures. While the U.S. does not export meat, bovine genetics are an important agricultural trade item worth about \$200,000 per year. The trade in pet food, capsules containing gelatine, and other medical products derived from cattle has similarly not been hurt.

It is possible that the Slovak government could ban the use of MBM in the near future. This could lead to an increase in the use of vegetable proteins such as soybean meal. Depending on animal numbers, overall soybean meal imports could rise about 28,000 MT per year. (It takes about 1.15 tons of soybean to substitute for 1 ton of MBM). Slovakia normally imports about 150,000 MT of soybean meal per year, worth between \$35 - \$40 million.

Slovakia does not export meat products to the United States.