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Voluntary - Public

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Austria

Post: Vienna

Confirmed BSE Case in the Province Upper Austria

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Approved By:

Kurt Seifarth

Prepared By:

Roswitha Krautgartner

Report Highlights:

On January 22, the Austrian province Upper Austria reported its second BSE case, which is the seventh BSE case Austrian wide. A routine BSE rapid test showed a positive test result for a twelve year old cow. The Austrian reference laboratory at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety confirmed the positive test result. The government of Upper Austria immediately withdrew and disposed of the contagioned carcass.

General Information:

On January 22, the Austrian province Upper Austria reported its second BSE case, which is the seventh BSE case Austrian wide. Prior to this case the last case was reported two years ago. A routine BSE rapid test showed a positive test result for a twelve year old cow. The

Austrian reference laboratory at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety confirmed the positive test result. The government of Upper Austria immediately withdrew and disposed of the contagioned carcass. The cow was born and raised in Austria. The tested offspring did not show BSE.

The Austrian Health Ministry stressed that there was no risk for consumers at any point because positive tested animals are prevented from entering the food chain. Mandatory rapid tests are carried out for all slaughtered cattle older than 48 months. As of 2000, about 650,000 animals have been tested for BSE. The Austrian Health Minister Stoeger highlighted in a press release that the Austrian authorities work perfectly together when it comes to the contingency plan. Further he opined that the number of BSE cases in Europe declined significantly due to rigorous removal and disposal of risk material and the feeding ban for animal meals. In 2009, European member states reported 69 BSE cases in total.