

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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EC planning TSE Roadmap 2010-2015 as decrease in BSE cases continues

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Report Highlights:

The number of BSE cases in the EU further decreased significantly as new cases in the United Kingdom have slowed to the level of other EU Member States. In the meantime, the EC is working on an update to its TSE Roadmap under the label TSE Roadmap 2010-2015. It is expected to capitalize on and enhance past years' measures.

General Information:

BSE cases in the EU						
	Total 2005	Total 2006	Total 2007	Total 2008	Total 2009*	
					Cattle tested	Positives
AUSTRIA	2	2	1	0	174,446	1
BELGIUM	2	2	0	0	189,695	0
BULGARIA	0	0	0	0	10,922	0
CYPRUS	0	0	0	0	N.A.	0
CZECH REPUBLIC	8	3	2	0	148,002	2
DENMARK	1	0	0	0	127,124	0
GERMANY	32	16	4	2	1,199,906	2
ESTONIA	0	0	0	0	27,377	0
FINLAND	0	0	0	0	59,361	0
FRANCE	31	8	8	8	1,157,810	10
GREECE	0	0	0	0	N.A.	0
HUNGARY	0	0	1	0	N.A.	0
IRELAND	69	41	25	23	385,494	9
ITALY	8	7	2	1	356,374	2
LATVIA	0	0	0	0	34,069	0
LITHUANIA	0	0	0	0	82,294	0
LUXEMBURG	1	0	0	0	8,163	0
NETHERLANDS	3	2	2	1	329,113	0
POLAND	20	10	9	5	539,361	4
PORTUGAL	51	33	14	18	72,266	8
ROMANIA	0	0	0	0	N.A.	0
SLOVENIA	1	1	1	0	24,085	0
SLOVAKIA	3	0	2	1	42,712	0
SPAIN	103	68	40	25	318,502	18
SWEDEN	0	1	0	0	89,469	0
UNITED KINGDOM	226	129	65	42	513,809	12
Total EU	561	323	176	126	9,692,642	68

Source: [European Commission](#) [1] and [OIE](#) [2]

* Testing through October 2009, but full year coverage of positive cases.

- Czech Republic, Austria, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland through November 2009;
- France, Spain through August;
- Italy, Portugal through September
- Germany, Ireland full year 2009 testing

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/mthly_reps_bse2009_en.pdf

[2] http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_esb.htm?e1d5

The number of BSE cases keeps steadily decreasing in most EU Member States (MS) after the last BSE crisis in 2002. In 2009, only 10 out of the 27 Member States (MS) had BSE cases on record, with especially the United Kingdom seeing a major reduction and for the first time leaving Spain with the highest numbers of BSE findings. The monitoring of TSE's in small ruminants is still intensifying, as new cases of atypical TSE/BSE in sheep continue to challenge scientists.

Continued execution of the TSE Roadmap

EC DG SANCO continues the execution of its "[TSE Roadmap \[1\]](#)", which was published on July 15, 2005. In November of 2007, an updated [COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT \[2\]](#) was published. As BSE incidences in many MS are becoming insignificant, MS want to change their BSE monitoring programs from actively testing all cattle over 30 months of age at slaughter to a risk-based monitoring program. This should considerably lower the expense of BSE monitoring. The increasing cost of feed is also slowly putting the EU's strict total ban on animal protein in all animal feeds, with the exception of petfood, back on the table for discussion. However, the lack of an analysis method that is able to identify animal protein from different species remains an obstacle.

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 357/2008 \[3\]](#) of April 22, 2008 increases the age of cattle for mandatory removal of Specified Risk Material (SRM) at slaughter to 30 months, up from 24 months. [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 571/2008 \[4\]](#) of June 18, 2008 set the criteria under which MS can apply to change their BSE monitoring program. In 2009, new TSE legislation was implemented that strengthened the TSE monitoring in small ruminants, as well adopting new laboratory methods for the diagnostic of TSEs. The comprehensive [list \[5\]](#) of legislative amendments to the EU's BSE/TSE regulation is available on the EC website.

TSE Road Map 2010-2015

In the Agriculture Council of February 22, 2010, Commissioner in charge of Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli confirmed that the Commission was working on a new TSE roadmap. This new TSE Roadmap for 2010-2015 is expected to be presented by the Commission in spring 2010. New proposals would include an increase in the age limit for the testing from 48 to 60 months or to limit the testing requirement only to cattle born before January 1, 2004. Relaxation of the total ban on animal protein feeding in the EU will likely be another area of interest.

^[1] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap_en.pdf

^[2] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/work_prog_tse_en.pdf

^[3] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:111:0003:0004:EN:PDF>

^[4] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:161:0004:0006:EN:PDF>

^[5] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/tse_bse/chronological_list_tse_en.htm