

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE	63-05	9/28/05
--------------------	-------	---------

**APHIS SAMPLING OF APPARENTLY HEALTHY ADULT CATTLE FOR THE
ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM FOR BSE**

NOTE: This notice only pertains to inspection program personnel who have been notified by APHIS that their establishment has entered into a Healthy Cattle Sample Collection Agreement

I. PURPOSE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) personnel will collect 20,000 brain samples from apparently healthy adult cattle 30 months of age and older presented at slaughter as part of that agency's enhanced surveillance program for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). This notice provides instructions to FSIS personnel on their involvement and responsibilities at the establishments that APHIS selects to participate in its sample collection program.

NOTE: FSIS personnel will continue to collect brain samples from all antemortem condemned cattle including non-ambulatory disabled and animals showing signs of Central Nervous System (CNS) disease as instructed in FSIS Notice 28-04 (*FSIS Sample Collection from Cattle Condemned During Antemortem Inspection for the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Program*).

II. BACKGROUND

A. APHIS is beginning its program to sample 20,000 apparently healthy adult cattle under its enhanced surveillance program for BSE. For purposes of the APHIS program, "apparently healthy adult cattle" are defined as adult cattle 30 months of age and older that have passed FSIS antemortem inspection, including cattle handled under 9 CFR 309.2(a). Sample collection will occur at participating slaughter establishments that APHIS has selected for sampling.

DISTRIBUTION: Notified
inspection program personnel

NOTICE EXPIRES: 10/1/06

OPI: OPPED

B. A participating establishment is to continue to follow its written procedure as incorporated into its HACCP system to ensure effective removal, segregation, and disposition of specified risk material (9CFR 310.22(d)(1)). Additionally, the establishment is to follow its established procedures for age determination. Apparently

C. healthy animals selected for BSE testing must be 30 months of age and older. If a plant in carrying out its age determination procedures determines a selected carcass to be less than 30 months of age, the selected carcass will not be sampled for BSE and therefore is not subject to FSIS retention.

D. APHIS is responsible for all aspects of the sample selection and collection from apparently healthy adult cattle. APHIS personnel will work with each establishment to develop a sampling plan, including when, where, and how they will collect the samples and will document their agreement with the establishment in the Healthy Cattle Sample Collection Agreement. APHIS will notify FSIS of participating establishments through the District Office (DO) and the DO will notify the Public Health Veterinarian (PHV) at those establishments. It is important for FSIS inspection personnel to keep in mind that in a Federal Register notice dated January 12, 2004, FSIS stated that it would not apply the marks of inspection to carcasses of cattle tested for BSE until a negative test result is attained.

III. AWARENESS MEETING

A. Prior to the initiation of sample collection, the PHV, the establishment, and the Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (AVIC), or designee, are to have an awareness meeting.

B. The meeting should include discussions pertaining to the projected sampling number that has been supplied by APHIS for that establishment; the establishment's slaughter and carcass cooler capacity to hold the retained carcasses and edible parts pending laboratory confirmation of a negative finding; the logistics of carcass and part retention; and identification, segregation, or disposal of inedible parts (e.g., blood, hooves, horns, mammary glands, and viscera including lungs) pending the BSE test result.

C. The FSIS PHV will document the meeting in a memorandum of interview (MOI) and include who was present, the date of the meeting, issues that were discussed, and what was decided on each issue discussed in the meeting.

D. The PHV is to maintain the MOI in the inspection files and provide a copy to the establishment management and the APHIS AVIC for the State in which the establishment is located.

IV. SAMPLE SELECTION AND COLLECTION

A. After FSIS completes antemortem inspection, APHIS will select the designated number of apparently healthy adult cattle for sampling. (See attached flowchart).

B. FSIS will make the postmortem disposition, using established criteria, independent of whether animals are selected by APHIS for sampling.

NOTE: If a carcass selected for APHIS sampling is condemned at postmortem, the BSE sampling will still be conducted. Also, inspection program personnel are to continue to collect blood and tissue samples for additional purposes (e.g., pathology, tuberculosis, and residue), perform screening tests, prepare samples, and submit samples to

appropriate laboratories. Inspection program personnel are to properly dispose of excess tissue resulting from the diagnostic test or sample submission as set out in IV. I. below.

C. After the completion of FSIS postmortem inspection of heads, APHIS personnel will collect the brain samples in a location pre-determined by the establishment with APHIS.

D. Inspection program personnel are to attach a "U.S. Retained" tag (FSIS Form 6502-1) to the leading side of each carcass to be tested. PHVs are not to allow the application of the mark of inspection until the BSE test results are confirmed negative.

E. Inspection program personnel also are to attach a "U.S. Retained" blue gang tag (FSIS Form 6502-2) to each corresponding part of the carcass, edible, and inedible parts in accordance with 9 CFR 310.3 and 310.4.

NOTE: Additional "U.S. Retained tags" will be used as needed to retain control of any batched edible and inedible parts according to the establishment's identification procedures. Also, inspection program personnel do not have to retain hides.

NOTE: FSIS's expectation is that blood resulting from the primary stick would be collected and retained or disposed of as set out in IV. I.; however, incidental blood drippage resulting during the dressing process would not be retained.

F. The establishment is responsible for maintaining the identity of the carcass, and of edible and inedible parts, and, in accordance with 9 CFR 310.2, for collecting and maintaining all identification (e.g., ear tags, back tags, and other identifying devices) with the carcass in a clear plastic bag.

G. The APHIS collector will enter the identification information into the BSE Surveillance Information System (BSE-SIS). The collector will then bag all the identification items, label them with the sample number and bar code sticker, and attach a copy of the BSE Surveillance Data Collection Form. The logistics for APHIS receipt of the identification information collected under 9 CFR 310.2, and correlation of the BSE-SIS bar code with US Retain and gang tag numbers will be fully discussed during the awareness meeting and understood prior to any sample collection.

H. PHVs are to maintain the items from the APHIS collector (See G above) and the stub portion of the “U.S. Retained” tag (which will have the blue gang tag number recorded on it or attached to it) under FSIS security until the test results have been returned.

I. If the establishment chooses to dispose of any carcass, edible or inedible part, or condemned carcasses tested by APHIS, prior to receiving test results, it should use one of the following preferred options:

- Render at dedicated facilities for non-animal feed use (e.g., biofuel or cement)
- Alkaline digestion
- Incineration
- Lined land fills

(See Section V. of FSIS Notice 40-04 “Additional Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Sampling Questions and Answers”, which contains procedures for carcass disposal).

J. In accordance established procedures, inspection program personnel are to document the retain tag numbers on the Daily Disposition Form, FSIS Form 6200-14, and the final disposition of the tested animals on this form after test results have been reported by APHIS.

V. TEST RESULTS

A. The AVIC will e-mail a report with the negative BSE test results to the appropriate PHV with copies to the Front-line Supervisor and DO.

NOTE: Partial test results of a day’s retained carcasses will not be reported to the PHV.

B. The e-mail will contain the negative results for each individual animal of that date’s lot/day/shift. If any result is inconclusive for the lot/day/shift, the PHV will be notified through supervisory channels about the status of all tested animals in the lot/day/shift in accordance with established interagency reporting lines for BSE inconclusive results.

1. if the test is negative (reported as “not detected”) the carcasses and parts may be released from the BSE testing retention.

2. if the test is inconclusive or confirmed positive, the PHV will receive supervisory instruction on further actions. For any confirmed positive the carcasses, edible, and inedible parts are to be disposed of by one of the options listed in paragraph IV.

VI. SANITATION

A. At an establishment that slaughters or processes both cattle 30 months of age and older and cattle younger than 30 months of age, inspection program personnel are to verify that the equipment (e.g., saws and knives) is properly cleaned and sanitized between carcasses or parts as set out in FSIS Notice 10-4.

B. The sanitation principles of cleaning and sanitization between cattle 30 months of age and older and cattle under 30 months of age are also applicable to cattle that are tested or not tested for BSE. An establishment may elect to clean and sanitize equipment between each animal or between multiple animals that are tested for BSE. FSIS will verify establishment execution of their sanitation standard operating procedure under 9 CFR 416 to determine the scope of affected product for any non-negative BSE sample.

VII. eADRS PROCEDURES

Each day that apparently healthy cattle are selected for APHIS testing, the PHV is to document in eADRS the number of cattle selected. To record this in eADRS, the PHV is to open eADRS, choose the category titled "cattle," and then locate the sub-category titled "APHIS 20K Surveillance". The PHV then is to enter the total number of cattle collected for that date. (i.e., if 9 are collected, the total number entered into the "20K" position would be 9).

Direct questions to the Technical Service Center at 1-800-233-3935.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development

Flow Chart for the Selection of Apparently Healthy Adult Cattle for BSE Testing

