



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Te Manatu Ahuwhenua, Ngāherehere



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24 July 2003

NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO BSE

As New Zealand's Director Animal Biosecurity I confirm that New Zealand's animal health situation with regard to BSE is as follows.

- New Zealand has never had a case of BSE.
- There has been a ban on the importation of live cattle from the United Kingdom since December 1988. The importation of live cattle from the European Union is prohibited.
- New Zealand has not allowed the importation of meat and bone meal for feeding to livestock for 50 years. New Zealand's livestock industry is primarily pastoral-based. Regulations prohibiting feeding ruminant tissues to ruminants came into force on 1 January 2000. The Regulations replaced a voluntary industry ban which had operated since mid 1996.
- The importation of bovine embryos from the United Kingdom has been suspended since April 1996.
- The importation of bovine semen from the United Kingdom was prohibited from early 1996 until January 2000, at which time importation was permitted to resume in accordance with the OIE International Animal Health Code.
- New Zealand's conditions covering the importation of cattle embryos and semen from countries (other than the UK) in which cases of BSE have been reported are based on the OIE International Animal Health Code but with some additional safeguards over and above the OIE requirements.
- New Zealand has a targeted surveillance program to identify BSE, should it occur. The causal agent of BSE is a notifiable organism.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Belton'.

Derek Belton
Director Animal Biosecurity

MAF BIOSECURITY AUTHORITY

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