

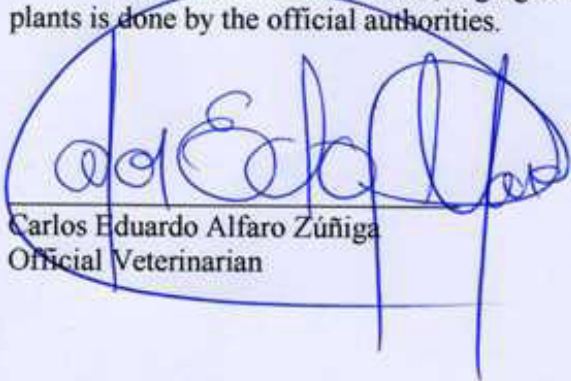


January 20, 2009

COSTA RICA 'S POSITION WITH REGAR TO BSE

As Costa Rica's Official Veterinarian I confirm that Costa Rica's animal health situation with regard to BSE is as follows.

- Costa Rica has never had a case of BSE
- Costa Rica has a legislative ban on feeding meat and bone meal to ruminant animals since February 2001.
- Costa Rica's Legislation establishes BSE of obligatory declaration.
- Costa Rica has in place a strict quarantine and other preventative animal health measures to prevent the introduction and establishment of BSE.
- Costa Rica has a surveillance program to identify BSE, in which all the downers at plants are closely monitored, analyzed for BSE and excluded from de production chain by burying the whole animal.
- The importation of live animals has to be submitted to a risk analysis and evaluation in accordance to a Sanitary Measures Agreement.
- Verification of the removal, segregation and disposition of all the specific risk materials in plants is done by the official authorities.


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Oficial Veterinarian

