



REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY
MINISTERIO DE GANADERIA, AGRICULTURA Y PESCA
DIRECCION GENERAL DE SERVICIOS GANADEROS

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**OFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY REGARDING BSE AND
SCRAPIE**

Uruguay is free of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and Scrapie. None of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE), including BSE or Scrapie, have been reported or suspected in URUGUAY. They are therefore classified as exotic diseases to the national livestock industry.

This sanitary condition is the consequence of the country's meat production systems and the preventive measures, and surveillance activities, implemented and undertaken by the veterinary authority.

Production systems

Uruguay's cattle are grass fed with no use of animal supplements in their feeding.

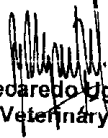
Preventive measures and surveillance activities

- 1) Both diseases are included in the list of compulsory notifiable diseases, according to the stipulations of our sanitary law and regulations, in compliance with international guidelines and standards of the OIE.
- 2) Several years before the appearance of BSE, the situation regarding the absence of scrapie in our country led to a very restrictive import policy for ovine and caprine animals and products, including a total ban of such imports from countries with occurrence of the disease.
- 3) The importation of bovines, including domestic and wild animals, their products and by-products as well as genetic materials originated from countries with cases of BSE, has been banned since the of the 80's.
- 4) Based on the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee recommendation of April 1996, the Government of Uruguay banned the use of meat and bone meals (MBM) from ruminants in feeds for ruminants.
- 5) Imports of all types of MBM from countries with cases of BSE has been banned.
- 6) Since 1995, following the guidelines of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Uruguay had adjusted and enforced the surveillance system for BSE and TSEs.
- 7) In case the disease is ever introduced in the country, there is a Contingency Program in place. This program is supported by a

Procedure Manual (September, 2002) and a Manual of Epidemiologic Surveillance (October, 2002).

www.mgap.gub.uy/DGSG/informaciónTécnica/EEB/Manual_Vigilancia.pdf (english and spanish version),

- 8) Within the coordination of activities of the Joint Committee of the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture, in relation to Zoonosis, the Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease (CDJ) was included in the Human Public Health compulsory reporting disease regulations.
- 9) Tracking of imported animals. Since June 2003, tracking of imported breeding animals has been modified to improve surveillance. All imported animals were tracked back and identified with an iron brand on the left maxillary area. At the end of productive life, all imported breeding animals shall be slaughtered, condemned and destroyed. They will be no chance of them entering into the food chain.
- 10) www.mgap.gub.uy/DGSG/resoluciones/RESOLUCIONES.htm. DGSG Resolutions N° 59/002 – 021/2003- 032a/2003 – 073/2003 – 074/2003.
- 11) The data of epidemiological surveillance of TSE obtained up to date from **retrospective studies** covering all cases and material collected of disturbances of the central nervous system (CNS) between 1972 and 1993 (22- year period); from the **passive epidemiological surveillance** data collected from all cases investigated since the compulsory reporting regulation was enforced in 1994 and from the **active epidemiological surveillance** activities developed according to the procedures established in Annex 4.5.1.2 "Systems of surveillance and monitoring of BSE" of the OIE International Zoosanitary Code since 1998. All results have been negative and they are, therefore, demonstrative of the absence of BSE, Scrapie and other TSE in URUGUAY.
- 12) Education programs about diagnosis and epidemiology of BSE for veterinarians and farmers have been, and are being implemented in order to increase awareness about the disease on a regular basis.
- 13) As from October 2002, the DGSG has created a Technical Advisory Team on TSE. This team is free to request information from other institutions, to request support from consultants and to propose sanitary measures to prevent TSEs from entering into our country.
Proposals in study:
 - Decree project: Specific risk materials, rendering and production of protein derivatives, tallow and grease.
 - Decree project: mills and plants producing animal feeds.
 - Training and up dating on TSEs, collection of information and epidemiological surveillance on BSE and other TSE (year 2004, Regional FAO Project).
- 14) Uruguayan experts have been trained in laboratory techniques for diagnosis of TSE, in selected international centres.
- 15) The Scientific Steering Committee (SCC) of the European Union has classified Uruguay in Category (I), the best possible (For further information see website: "europa.eu.int.comm./food/fs/sc/ssc/out165")


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