



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## EU-25

### Livestock and Products

### BSE/TSE situation in the EU-25 - update on 2005

### 2006

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**Report Highlights:**

European BSE cases further decreased by 40 percent to about 500 cases in 2005. This favorable development led the EC to adopt its TSE Roadmap in July of 2005, with the aim of softening restrictions and reduce BSE/TSE testing costs. One of the goals is to harmonize the EU BSE classification of countries with OIE classification. With the UK number of BSE cases having decreased dramatically over the past years, the OTMS was ended in November 2005 and the lifting of EU ban on British cattle and beef exports was approved in March 2006. After the finding of BSE in a French goat last year, suspicion of BSE in three sheep will lead to a significant increase in testing of sheep for TSE's in the coming six months.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Brussels USEU [BE2]  
[E3]

**Number of BSE cases in the EU-25 down again in 2005 by more than 40 percent.**

BSE cases in the European Union (EU) continued to decrease to about 500 cases in 2005, from 869 cases in 2004 and 1369 cases in 2003. EU-15 member states identified fewer BSE cases, while in the New Member States (NMS), the situation is mixed but with numbers of BSE cases remaining low. More background information on the BSE/TSE situation in the EU can be found at the Commission website at

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/index_en.htm) or on the USEU website at <http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/>.

Country/Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Austria*	1	0	0	0	1
Belgium	46	38	15	11	2
Czech Republic	2	2	4	7	8
Denmark	6	3	2	1	1
Finland*	1	0	0	0	0
France	274	239	137	54	31
Germany	125	106	54	65	32
Greece*	1	0	0	0	0
Ireland	246	333	183	126	69
Italy*	48	38	29	7	8
Luxembourg	0	1	0	0	1
Netherlands*	20	24	19	6	2
Poland*	0	4	5	11	18
Portugal*	110	86	133	92	37
Slovakia	5	6	2	7	1
Slovenia*	1	1	1	2	1
Spain*	82	127	167	137	75
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	42	24	21	3	3
United Kingdom	1202	1144	611	343	225

\* Data as of 31 October 2005. Slovenia - Data as of 24/08/2005. Spain - Data as of 19/10/2005.

Sources: OIE, European Commission.

**TSE Roadmap outlines EC DGSanco BSE/TSE policy for the next decade**

On July 15, 2005 EC DGSANCO published its "[The TSE Roadmap](#)<sup>1</sup>". This document lists possible amendments to the current BSE legislation. Also see [GAIN E35164](#).

*Amendments in the short and medium term (2005-2009)* are in the fields of:

- Age requirements for removal of Specified Risk Material (SRM) to be raised. This has been addressed in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1974/2005](#) of 2 December 2005
- Feed Ban: the need to abandon the zero-tolerance and a relaxation of the fishmeal ban. This has been addressed in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1292/2005](#) of 5 August 2005.
- Monitoring Programs: reducing the number of BSE testing in line with epidemiological considerations.
- Categorization of countries according to their BSE risk based on OIE categorization rules.
- Review of culling policy with regard to TSE's in small ruminants.

<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap_en.pdf)

- Cohort culling in bovine animals.
- Restrictions on UK beef exports to be lifted.

*Amendments in the long-term (2009-2014) include:*

- A gradual decrease in the level of surveillance to a level in line with OIE recommendations.
- A complete revision of the need for the removal of SRM's
- The introduction of a system of certification of herds

Regular updates on the European BSE/TSE situation can be found on our website at <http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/srm.html>.

### **End to United Kingdom's special BSE situation: end of Over Thirty Months Scheme (OTMS) and lifting of EU ban on UK beef exports.**

On 15 September 2005, the UK Government announced that the OTM rule would be replaced. Subsequently, on 7 November 2005 a system of BSE testing for OTM cattle was introduced. Cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August 1996 remain excluded from the food chain. The OTMS was replaced by the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme (OCDS), which provides an outlet for cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August 1996. The OCDS replaced the OTMS on 23 January 2006. More details are available at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/otm/index.html>.

In its March 7-8, 2006 meeting, the EC Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFAH) unanimously agreed to lift the ban on British beef and live cattle exports. DGSanco officials expect that the publication in the Official Journal of the proposal should take another 6 weeks, after which the lifting of the UK export ban should become effective.

While the EU is requiring routine BSE testing at slaughter for all cattle above 30 months of age, Germany required routine BSE tests for all cattle above 24 months of age. Cattle producers in Germany have been complaining that the cost for this extra BSE testing put them at a competitive disadvantage in Europe. This difference in testing requirement could also create a problem for the resumption of UK beef exports. Therefore, Germany has increased the age of mandatory BSE testing to 30 months again starting in April 2006. See GAIN [GM6004](#).

### **After BSE in goats, BSE to be discovered in sheep?**

Three recent cases of "atypical" scrapie were found in sheep. After two tests, test results from two sheep from France and one from Cyprus offered insufficient evidence to definitively rule out BSE. As a result, the European Commission has requested that samples from these three sheep be sent to the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) in Weybridge (UK) for further biological testing. The third round of tests is now expected to take between 12-18 months to complete.

In 2005 up to 10 000 tests per Member State were carried out in healthy slaughtered sheep and as many again in fallen stock, depending on the size of the sheep population. Over 1.5 million sheep and 410 000 goats have been tested in the EU since April 2002. Testing will now be increased further to 800,000 healthy slaughtered sheep in abattoirs and 140,000 dead sheep in rendering plants over the next six months.

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Report Number	Title	Date Released
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E36027	<a href="#">Impact of CAP Reform on the elimination of EU export refunds</a>	February 9, 06
E36014	<a href="#">Livestock – Semi-annual</a>	February 1, 06
E35229	<a href="#">EU Approves €185 Million to Fight Animal Diseases in 2006</a>	December 05,05
E35182	<a href="#">EU Mid-Year 2005 BSE update</a>	September14,05
E35164	<a href="#">EU Directorate for Health and Consumer Protection presents its TSE Roadmap</a>	August 23, 05
SW6008	<a href="#">First Swedish BSE Case Confirmed</a>	March 06, 06
GM6004	<a href="#">Germany plans to adjust BSE testing age to EU level</a>	February 17,06
GM6003	<a href="#">BSE in Germany - Update Covering 2005</a>	January 27, 06
DA5011	<a href="#">New BSE Regulations</a>	September30,05
DA5009	<a href="#">14th BSE case in Denmark</a>	September19,05
UK5022	<a href="#">UK BSE restrictions to be reduced</a>	September19,05
SI5006	<a href="#">Vet Authorities Confirm 6th Case of BSE</a>	September 8,05
These reports can be accessed through our website <a href="http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/">http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/</a> or through the FAS website <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp">http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp</a> .		