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Room 102 Cotton Annex
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Washington DC 202250-3700

From: Dr. Don Brunssen VMO
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I would like to comment on the interim rules for BSE-SRM's. I currently am a VMO in a fast cattle kill in Washington State. I feel the regulations should require sanitizing all equipment between processing of each 30mo.+ carcass.

If scientific research shows that 30+ cattle SRM's could harbor infective prions, then when processing identified 30+ lots **all** the equipment should be sanitized between each carcass.

Also, is 180 F water rinsing equipment satisfactory **to kill** or eliminate the agent that is known to cause vCJD in man?

I believe if no more cases of BSE are confirmed in the next 6-8 months in the US FSIS should rescind the new SRM rules temporarily until more cases prove we have a problem. These interventions are very costly and may not be necessary if we only had one isolated case of BSE that was from Canada.

I believe the best answer is to **test all** cattle or at least all 30mo.+ cattle that pass antemortem inspection prior to selling product for human food. This would eliminate much of the concern and risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to state my thoughts.

Regards,



Don Brunssen DVM