

**BSE Chronology**  
**Key USDA Actions Related to Canada**

<b>May 20, 2003</b>	<b>Canada reports its first native case of BSE in a 6 to 8 year old cow in Alberta.</b> USDA places an immediate prohibition on the importation of all live ruminants, ruminant meat, ruminant meat products, and other ruminant products from Canada.
<b>August 8, 2003</b>	Secretary Veneman announces that USDA will begin accepting import permits for certain <b>Canadian ruminant products</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boneless sheep or goat meat from animals under 12 months of age;</li> <li>• Boneless bovine meat from cattle under 30 months of age;</li> <li>• Boneless Veal (meat) from calves that were 36 weeks of age or younger at slaughter;</li> <li>• Fresh or frozen bovine liver;</li> <li>• Vaccines for veterinary medicine for non-ruminant use; and</li> <li>• Pet products and feed ingredients that contain processed animal protein and tallow of non-ruminant sources when produced in facilities with dedicated manufacturing lines;</li> <li>• Hunter-harvested wild ruminant products.</li> </ul>
<b>August 27, 2003</b>	The first <b>Canadian import permits</b> are issued. The permits are for Canadian origin boneless beef from animals less than 30 months of age, and also for certain U.S. origin products further processed in Canada at dedicated facilities and returned to the United States.
<b>November 4, 2003</b>	APHIS publishes a <b>proposed rule</b> in the Federal Register that creates a new category of BSE minimal risk countries, places Canada in this category, and allows the import of certain ruminants and ruminant products from countries in this category.
<b>December 25, 2003</b>	USDA confirms a case of BSE in a 6 ½ year old cow in <b>Washington State</b> and USDA begins traceback investigation into source of index cow.
<b>January 2, 2004</b>	USDA confirms that the BSE-infected cow entered the United States from <b>Canada in 2001</b> .
<b>January 5, 2004</b>	The <b>public comment period closes</b> on the proposed rule to establish minimum risk regions for BSE.
<b>March 8, 2004</b>	USDA publishes a notice <b>reopening the comment period</b> on the proposed rule to establish minimal risk regions for BSE.
<b>April 7, 2004</b>	The comment period closes on proposed rule to establish minimal risk regions. APHIS received 3,372 comments by this date.
<b>April 19, 2004</b>	USDA issues a notice entitled “New Criteria for the Importation of Edible Bovine Meat and Bovine Meat Products.” This notice expands the list of ruminant products allowed entry from <b>Canada</b> .
<b>April 22, 2004</b>	Ranchers Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America ( <b>R-CALF USA</b> ) seeks a temporary restraining order to

	prevent USDA from allowing the importation of bone-in and ground beef products from Canada.
<b>April 26, 2004</b>	The Honorable Richard F. Cebull, U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Montana, granted <b>R-CALF USA's</b> motion for a temporary restraining order enjoining USDA from allowing the importation of bone-in and ground beef from Canada. Under the order, USDA must revert back to import guidelines for Canadian beef products that were announced on August 8, 2003.
<b>May 6, 2004</b>	As a result of an agreed stipulation approved by the <b>District Court</b> , USDA rescinds its April 19, announcement allowing the importation of bone-in and ground beef products from <b>Canada</b> . USDA reverts back to import guidelines that were announced on August 8, 2003.
<b>December 29, 2004</b>	USDA <b>announces final rule</b> establishing minimal risk regions for BSE and designating Canada as the first such region. Implementation of the rule would be on March 7, 2005, at which time imports of live cattle under 30 months (and other animals and products) could resume.  <b>Canada announces a suspect case of BSE.</b>
<b>December 30, 2004</b>	The <b>American Meat Institute files suit</b> in U.S. District Court charging that continuing to enforce a ban on importing older cattle from Canada is arbitrary and capricious.
<b>January 2, 2005</b>	Canada confirms its <b>second BSE case</b> in an 8 year old cow in Alberta.
<b>January 4, 2005</b>	<b>Final rule is published</b> in the Federal Register.
<b>January 7, 2005</b>	<b>USDA announces</b> that CFIA's preliminary investigation has shown that one of these birth cohorts was imported into the United States in February 2002 for immediate slaughter.
<b>January 11, 2005</b>	Canada confirms its <b>third BSE case</b> in a nearly 7 year old cow in Alberta.
<b>January 24, 2005</b>	USDA's 9-member <b>technical team travels</b> to Canada to begin their investigation.
<b>February 3, 2005</b>	<b>Secretary Johanns testifies</b> before the Senate Agriculture Committee on the Canadian minimal-risk rule.
<b>February 9, 2005</b>	Secretary Johanns announces that <b>USDA will delay allowing beef from Canadian cattle 30 months of age</b> and older into the United States.
<b>February 14, 2005</b>	<b>OIG issues a new report</b> entitled "APHIS Oversight of the Importation of Beef Products from Canada." The recommendations in the report are already being enacted by USDA.
<b>February 25, 2005</b>	USDA releases the <b>technical assessment on the Canadian feed ban</b> . The report states that "Canada has a robust inspection program, that overall compliance with the feed ban is good and

	that the feed ban is reducing the risk of transmission of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the Canadian cattle population."
<b>March 1, 2005</b>	Secretary Johanns <b>testifies</b> before the House Agriculture Committee on the Canadian minimal-risk rule.
<b>March 2, 2005</b>	<b>The U.S. District Court for the District of Montana grants a temporary injunction</b> to prevent implementation of the minimal risk rule until R-CALF USA's lawsuit is considered on the merits by the court.
<b>March 3, 2005</b>	The <b>U.S. Senate votes 52 to 46 to disapprove the Canadian minimal-risk rule.</b> For this to have effect, however, the House would also have to have a majority vote to disapprove the rule and the President would have to sign it—a move which he has indicated he will not do.
<b>March 17, 2005</b>	<b>U.S. Department of Justice</b> , on behalf of USDA, <b>files a request with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit</b> asking that the court overturn the decision issued by the U.S. District Court in Montana that granted a preliminary injunction to delay the implementation of the minimal-risk regions rule.
<b>April 1, 2005</b>	USDA announces that Canada, Mexico, and the United States have established a <b>harmonized approach to BSE risk mitigation</b> to more effectively address any BSE risk in North America.
<b>June 24, 2005</b>	Final test results from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge, England, confirm that a sample from a <b>Texas cow tested positive for BSE.</b> USDA also announces new BSE confirmatory testing protocol. (In November 2004, preliminary test results were inconclusive on the 12 year old Texas cow. Follow-up testing at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory indicated the cow was negative for BSE. At the request of the USDA OIG, a sample was sent to the Weybridge laboratory for additional testing.)
<b>July 14, 2005</b>	The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling <b>overturning a temporary preliminary injunction</b> put in place earlier by the District Court for the District of Montana. The ruling to lift the injunction is effective immediately.
<b>July 18, 2005</b>	The <b>first shipment of Canadian cattle</b> under 30 months of age enters the United States since publication of the minimal-risk regions rule.
<b>September 7, 2005</b>	R-CALF USA requests a <b>rehearing</b> by the full Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, rather than by the 3-judge panel that heard the original case.
<b>October 13, 2005</b>	The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals <b>denies R-CALF USA's request for a rehearing</b> , thus ending R-CALF USA's appeal rights with regard to the preliminary injunction
<b>January 22, 2006</b>	Canada confirms its <b>fourth BSE case</b> , in a nearly 6 year old cow in Alberta.

<b>March 13, 2006</b>	USDA confirms the <b>third BSE case in the United States</b> in a 10 year old cow in Alabama.
<b>April 5, 2006</b>	The U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Montana denies R-CALF USA's request for a permanent injunction on the rule.
<b>April 16, 2006</b>	Canada confirms its <b>fifth BSE case</b> in a 6 year old dairy cow in British Columbia.
<b>April 28, 2006</b>	USDA publishes data from its <b>enhanced BSE surveillance program</b> and an estimate of the prevalence of BSE in the United States—less than 1 case per million adult cattle based on a population of 42 million adult cattle—and submits it for a scientific peer review in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) guidelines.
<b>June 6, 2006</b>	<b>R-CALF USA</b> requests that the 9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court hear their appeal of the April 5, court decision denying a permanent injunction.
<b>June 26, 2006</b>	Canada announces that it is expanding its <b>feed ban</b> to prohibit specified risk materials in fertilizer, all animal feeds, and pet food.
<b>June 29, 2006</b>	<b>Canada reopens its border</b> to all classes of U.S. cattle as a step to normalize North American cattle trade. U.S. cattle born after January 1, 1999 as well as beef from cattle over 30 months old are eligible to enter Canada, under certain conditions.
<b>July 4, 2006</b>	Canada confirms a <b>sixth BSE case</b> in a 15 year old cow from Manitoba.
<b>July 13, 2006</b>	Canada confirms its <b>seventh BSE case</b> in a 50 month old dairy cow from Alberta.
<b>July 20, 2006</b>	USDA announces that it will be transitioning from an enhanced BSE surveillance program to <b>ongoing BSE surveillance</b> , given the low incidence of the disease in the United States. The ongoing BSE surveillance program will sample approximately 40,000 animals each year from a variety of sites and from cattle populations where the disease is most likely to be detected. The new program will begin in late August at the earliest.