

25 March 2019

NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO BSE

As New Zealand's Director Diagnostic & Surveillance Services, I confirm that New Zealand's animal health situation with regard to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is as follows.

- New Zealand has never had a case of BSE and is free from Scrapie and CWD.
- There has been a ban on the importation of live cattle from the United Kingdom since December 1988. The importation of live cattle is prohibited from all countries except Australia.
- New Zealand has never allowed the importation of meat and bone meal for feeding to livestock. New Zealand's livestock industry is primarily pastoral-based. Regulations prohibiting feeding ruminant tissues to ruminants came into force on 1 January 2000. The Regulations replaced a voluntary industry ban which had operated since mid-1996.
- The importation of bovine semen and embryos from the United Kingdom was prohibited from early 1996 until January 2000 (semen) and June 2001 (embryos), at which time importation was permitted to resume in accordance with the OIE International Animal Health Code.
- New Zealand's conditions covering the importation of cattle embryos and semen from countries (other than the UK) in which cases of BSE have been reported are based on the OIE International Animal Health Code.
- New Zealand has a targeted surveillance programme to identify BSE, should it occur. The causal agent of BSE is a notifiable organism.
- In May 2007 the World Organisation for Animal Health recognised New Zealand as a country with a negligible BSE risk.



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