

U.S. Border Open to Canadian Cows

The U.S. border is now open to Canadian cattle due to a federal appeals court overturning the ban on the animals on July 14.

Within days of the court decision, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reopened the border to Canadian cattle under 30 months of age. The first truck of Canadian cattle arrived in New York July 19. Cows from Canada have been banned since May 2003 after a cow in Alberta was found to have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

At this point, only cattle that are for immediate slaughter or feeding as long as they are slaughtered at less than 30 months will be allowed in the country.

Additional information can be found online at www.usda.gov.

BSE Discovered In Texas Beef Cow

The first case of native-born BSE was announced in June, found in a 12 year old Brahma breed that was slaughtered at a rendering plant in Texas.

The animal, which was a downer, did not enter the human or animal food chain due to the increased surveillance measures put in place since the last case of mad cow disease was discovered.

While the animal was first identified as an inconclusive positive case of BSE last fall when it was processed by Champion Pet Food, the USDA waited to do additional testing until USDA's Inspector General prompted that step. Subsequent additional testing was done in the U.S. and in Europe before the announcement was made.

Due to the cow's age, officials believe it was most likely infected by consuming feed before the 1997 ruminant-to-ruminant food ban. Tests are now being done to determine the history of the animal's feed supply, and to locate possible herd mates. To date, 67 cows have been culled from the cow's herd and have tested negative for BSE.

Sheila Burkhardt Elected to Michigan 4-H Foundation Board

MMPA Member Relations and Public Affairs Director, Sheila Burkhardt was elected to a three-year term on the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees at its April 29 board meeting.

The 24 elected and three appointed members of the board will guide the direction of the Michigan 4-H Foundation, a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that supports the mission and vision of Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development in all 83 Michigan Counties. More than 230,000 youth are currently involved in 4-H with the support of 24,000 adult and older teen volunteers.

Sheila has served as past president of both the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation and the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association. She is currently a member of the 4-H animal science priority team and served on the state 4-H dairy programming committee.

Producers scoring 95 percent or more on Grade A Surveys and Federal Check Ratings

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Bienz Double View Farm
Lyon Farm LLC
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Schuurmans Dairy Farm
Brent & Nina Butler
Christopher, Hans & Patricia Langmaack
Doug Lilly
Chase Crest Hill Farms

MMPA Defiance Ohio
June 2005

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Van Erk Dairy LLC
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Henricks & Krieger LLC
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