



CANADIAN MEAT COUNCIL STATEMENT
ON ADDITIONAL CASE OF BSE IN CANADA

Attribute Statement to Jim Laws, Executive Director

Ottawa , Ontario , January 23, 2006 -- “Finding this additional case of BSE was expected since we know that we have a very low prevalence of BSE in Canada and this animal certainly fits the risk profile of a suspected case. Canada 's surveillance system is working to identify and remove any remaining cases of BSE in the country.

Canada has now sampled almost 84,000 high risk suspect animals since the first case of BSE was found in May of 2003. The fact that only 4 animals have been found is evidence of our successful measures to eliminate this disease from the Canadian herd.

Strict import controls, an enforced ruminant feed ban combined with new animal identification practices have ensured that the incidence of this disease in Canada continues to decline.

Canada 's beef slaughterhouses and processors place the highest priority on food safety for Canadians. Specified Risk Materials are removed at the plant where Canadian Food Inspection Agency veterinarians and inspectors are present at all times. Canadian beef is safe to eat. Consumers will be reassured to know that beef from this animal did not enter the human food or animal feed supply.

We remain confident that BSE is being eliminated in North America and that Canadian and U.S. preventative measures are working to ensure that cases are identified and removed from the North American herd.”

The Canadian Meat Council is Canada 's national trade association of federally inspected meat packers and processors. The red meat processing and packing industry is the largest food processing industry in Canada and the fourth largest manufacturing industry in the country, after motor vehicles, petroleum products, and sawmill products. Collectively the industry employs directly over 34,000 Canadians. The total annual sales from our red meat processing sector including rendering is over \$15 billion.