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Further decrease in EU BSE cases may lead to end of MBM feed ban

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On July 6, 2011, the European Parliament gave the green light for a conditional lifting of the EU ban on feeding meat and bone meal (MBM). MBM will remain excluded in ruminant feed, while feeding MBM to the same species will also remain banned. However, under this scenario, poultry MBM could be fed to pigs and pig MBM to poultry as of the second half of 2012. As of July 1, 2011, the age for mandatory BSE testing in 25 Member States has been increased from 48 to 72 months. These measures have been introduced as part of the EU TSE Road Map 2, which covers the 2010-2015 period.

General Information:

In a plenary session on July 6, 2011, the European Parliament (EP) approved a [resolution](#) [1] on the EU's Transposable Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) policy initiated by German Socialist MEP Roth-Behrendt. This resolution supports the partial lifting of the ban on meat and bone meal (MBM) in feed in the EU; the ban on feeding MBM to ruminants will still remain. MBM may also not be produced from ruminants. The new policy will allow the feeding of MBM to pigs, poultry and fish. MBM from poultry may be fed to pigs and MBM from pigs may be fed to poultry. In order to control and enforce the separation of species-specific MBM, a testing method must be validated first. However, validation of such a test is under review and it is expected that the EC will make a proposal to end the MBM feed ban in the autumn of 2011. The end to the MBM feed ban could be implemented in the summer of 2012 if no further obstacles arise. In light of the EU's protein shortfall and high prices for soymeal, European feed industries have been lobbying for this end to the MBM feed ban for several years.

With the resolution on the future TSE policy, the EP supports the execution of the "TSE Road map 2" that the European Commission (EC) presented in its July 2010 [Communication](#) [2] to the European Parliament and the Council. Another measure from the TSE Road map 2 is the [Commission Decision](#) [3] of June 17, 2011 to allow 25 out of 27 Member States (MS) to increase the testing age for BSE in cattle monitoring from 48 months to 72 months. This increase in the BSE testing age went into effect on July 1, 2011 and was granted after MS submitted their plans to the Commission with a updated BSE monitoring plan. This Decision followed a favorable [opinion](#) [4] from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) from December 2010. Only Bulgaria and Romania failed to propose an updated monitoring regime, but both countries had no BSE cases in recent years.

EU BSE cases continue to decrease

In 2010, the number of BSE cases detected in the EU was 44, indicating a continued decline from 68 cases in 2009 and 121 in 2008. Spain and the United Kingdom were the only two remaining MS with more than 10 BSE cases, making up more than half of all detected BSE cases in the EU. Some industry experts are already suggesting that most ME should halt systematic BSE testing completely, as they may be down to a naturally occurring threshold of BSE again and therefore occasional further BSE finds only serve scaremongers. However, at this point it is politically still inconceivable that BSE monitoring and eradication measures in the EU be lifted after they have proven successful in the fight against BSE.

Total BSE cases in the EU						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
AUSTRIA	2	2	1	0	0	2
BELGIUM	2	2	0	0	0	0
BULGARIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
CYPRUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
CZECH REPUBLIC	8	3	2	0	2	0

DENMARK	1	0	0	0	1	0
GERMANY	32	16	4	2	2	0
ESTONIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
FINLAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRANCE	31	8	9	8	10	5
GREECE	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUNGARY	0	0	1	0	0	0
IRELAND	69	41	25	23	9	2
ITALY	8	7	2	1	2	0
LATVIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
LITHUANIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
LUXEMBURG	1	0	0	0	0	0
NETHERLANDS	3	2	2	1	0	2
POLAND	20	10	9	5	4	2
PORTUGAL	51	33	14	18	8	6
ROMANIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
SLOVENIA	1	1	1	0	0	0
SLOVAKIA	3	0	2	1	0	1
SPAIN	103	68	36	25	18	13
SWEDEN	0	1	0	0	0	0
UNITED KINGDOM	226	129	67	37	12	11
Total EU	561	323	175	121	68	44

Source: [OIE](#) [5]

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	Related reports from FAS EU	
E57008	EC animal disease eradication and monitoring program for 2011	12/12/2010
E50041	EC planning TSE Roadmap 2010-2015 as decrease in BSE cases continues	06/14/2010

These reports can be accessed through our website <http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/> or through the FAS website <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

[1] <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2011-0328&language=EN&ring=A7-2011-0195>

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/tse_bse/docs/roadmap_2_en.pdf

[3] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:161:0029:0033:EN:PDF>

[4] <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1946.htm>

[5] <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/bse-specific-data/number-of-reported-cases-worldwide-excluding-the-united-kingdom/>

