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## **Expect more BSE, expert says**

**Swiss investigator's warning casts pall after final tests show no more cases**  
BY KIM LUNMAN

OTTAWA -- It is highly likely that more cases of mad-cow disease will be detected in Canadian cattle, an international expert on the condition said yesterday.

"The risk is there that you will find a second or third case, or even more," Ulrich Kihm, the former chief veterinary officer in Switzerland and a member of the International Committee on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, told a press conference in Ottawa.

"The answer is clearly yes. I'm estimating that there will be other cases in this part of the world. . . . You have to implement a proper surveillance system in order to detect that."

Dr. Kihm's comments cast a shadow over Canada's \$30-billion-a-year beef industry even as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency reported that an investigation has failed to turn up any more cases of cattle with BSE.

Tests on the final batch of cattle all came back negative, said Brian Evans, the agency's chief veterinary officer. The number of farms in quarantine has dropped to nine from 18.

But bans on Canadian cattle imports to the United States and elsewhere remain in place, and federal opposition politicians and western premiers are demanding compensation for farmers and beef-industry workers.

"Is the Prime Minister capable of understanding this is an emergency and if he is not interested in doing his job, why does he not just leave office now?" Canadian Alliance Leader Stephen Harper asked in the House yesterday.

"We are working on it," Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said. "We are looking at what can be done to give them the proper access to the resources that are needed for them to get through this very difficult period."

"I have to say that sounds a lot like 100-per-cent Canada Grade-A bull," responded Vancouver New Democrat MP Libby Davies, who demanded compensation for laid-off meat-processing workers and farmers.

Sources told The Canadian Press yesterday that a federal compensation package could be announced within two weeks.

The cattle industry has been crippled since a cow from a farm in Wanham, Alta., tested positive for the brain-wasting disease on May 20. Countries around the world, including the United States, Japan and New Zealand, have banned Canadian beef as a result. The discovery of the lone BSE-infected cow has cost the industry approximately \$27.5-million a day.

The crisis is at the top of the agenda for the meeting of western premiers that starts today in Kelowna, B.C. Over the weekend, the International Committee on BSE -- a group of inspectors from the United States, Europe and New Zealand -- visited Canada to review how scientists handled the BSE probe.

Dr. Kihm said Canadian scientists have done everything they could to investigate the case, but the importing countries will determine whether they will lift their bans. "What we have seen there is they have done a very, very good job by investigating all the details, collecting the data, taking conclusions from them," said Dr. Kihm, who is preparing a report on the Canadian case that should be completed in two weeks.

He said some importers have still not lifted bans on beef from Switzerland since BSE was detected there in 1990.

Ron DeHaven, the U.S. deputy administrator of veterinary services, said he could not say what impact the report will have on the ban. "We will wait until all the relevant information from the investigation is presented before we officially consider lifting any of the restrictions," he said.

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Toronto Star (June 10, 2003)

## **Canada must boost mad cow fight: Panel**

**BY VALERIE LAWTON, OTTAWA BUREAU**

OTTAWA—Canada must do more to prevent and detect mad cow disease, says a panel of international experts that warns this country almost certainly will uncover more cases.

The four-member panel issued its preliminary findings yesterday as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced it is winding down an investigation into one confirmed case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Alberta.

Some 2,700 cattle with some connection to the infected animal have been slaughtered and test results to date are all negative for BSE, officials said.

Dr. Ulrich Kihm, who led the panel invited to assess Canadian efforts, cautioned that does not mean only a single cow was infected, even though "I have never seen such a comprehensive investigation in such a short time.

"The risk is there that you will find a second or third case or even more," Kihm told a news conference. "I'm estimating that there will be other cases in this part of the world.

At least half a dozen countries, including the United States, have closed their borders to Canadian cattle and beef products.

"Very few countries have only one case," Kihm said. Switzerland, for example, confirmed a single case in 1990 and officials have found since then more than 400 other infected animals, said Kihm, who has been its chief veterinary officer .

The origins of the diseased Alberta cow remain a mystery. Federal officials believe it most likely became infected after eating contaminated feed.

It is unclear when the U.S. import ban on Canadian cattle will be lifted. Ron DeHaven, U.S. deputy administrator of veterinary services, said the United States wants to look at the conclusions of the international experts.

It's likely to take two weeks for the panel to submit its written report.

Canada's beef industry can't survive past the end of August without federal disaster relief funding, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein warned yesterday from the western premiers' meeting in Kelowna, B.C.

Kihm said the confirmed case of BSE means Canada must:

- \* **Enhance its testing, ideally testing all animals that die on farms, are unable to stand, or are brought to abattoirs for emergency slaughter because of illness, or about 1 per cent to 2 per cent of the national herd.**
- \* **Ban adding cattle remains to any animal feed.**

Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert repeated his demand for a compensation program.