



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.08

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 1/30/2004

GAIN Report Number: BE4002

Belgium-Luxembourg

Livestock and Products

BSE Update 2003

2004

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Report Highlights:

BSE cases and Monitoring System Results for 2003.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1]
[BE]

From January through December 2003, Belgian authorities tested 392,463 animals and 15 cases of BSE were confirmed, compared to 38 cases discovered by 450,419 tests in the whole of 2002.

The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) systematically conducts “fast tests” for the detection of BSE:

- in slaughterhouses: all animals older than 30 months slaughtered for human consumption and all emergency slaughters of animals older than 24 months.
- in rendering plants: all carcasses from animals older than 24 months.

Aside from “fast tests”, an epidemiological surveillance system assures trace ability of BSE in living animals on farms, on livestock markets, and upon arrival at the slaughterhouse. Animals that show any kind of disease symptoms or show clinical BSE symptoms are considered BSE suspect and are tested through epidemiological testing.

In October 2003, Federal Minister of Public Health, Rudy Demotte, announced that the elimination of BSE infected animals will be restricted to age cohorts and offspring of the animals tested positive for BSE. Only animals that were fed together with animals tested positive are considered to be possible carriers of the disease, making a complete slaughter of the herd obsolete.

Belgian Results of BSE Tracing System on Cattle										
Period	Initial tracing						BSE affected herds		Totals	
	Clinical suspect		Slaughterhouses		Rendering plant		Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive				
2003	248	0	357,398	10	33,691	5	1,126	0	392,463	15
2002	377	5	410,379	17	36,386	16	3,277	0	450,419	38
2001	379	10	360,948	28	13,060	7	3,522	1	377,909	46
2000	304	9	-	-	-	-	673	0	977	9
1999	206	3	-	-	-	-	479	0	685	3

BSE Cases in 2003 & Number of Destroyed Animals					
BSE case	# destroyed animals	BSE case	# destroyed animals	BSE case	# destroyed animals
1	188	6	294	11	192
2	24	7	91	12	10
3	238	8	138	13	0
4	111	9	162	14	2
5	242	10	63	15	10
TOTAL				15	1,765