USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
GAIN Report
Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 9/11/2007

GAIN Report Number: E47079

EU-27

Livestock and Products

EU Midyear 2007 BSE update

2007

Approved by:
Debra Henke
U.S. Mission to the EU

Prepared by:
Yvan Polet

Report Highlights:
Except for a few Member States where BSE development and implementation of preventive measures occurred in later years, BSE incidences in EU Member States (MS) are falling rapidly. This decrease in BSE incidences suggests that the EU is on track to significantly reduce BSE from its cattle herds in the coming years, especially as the age of infected animals is increasing with the years with virtually no cases in younger animals. As part of its TSE Roadmap, the EU has changed its BSE risk classification system for third countries to mirror the OIE system in December 2006.
The increased monitoring of TSEs in small ruminants is revealing high incidences in some MS, especially Cyprus. It is yet too early to make any conclusions about the development of TSEs in EU ovine and caprine herds.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E4]

Number of BSE cases in the EU continue steady decrease

BSE cases in the EU					
	Total 2005	Total 2006	Mid 2007		
			Testing until	Cattle tested	Positives
AUSTRIA	2	2	July	119.662	1
BELGIUM	2	2	June	180.121	0
BULGARIA	N.A.	N.A.	June	6.766	0
CZECH REPUBLIC	8	3	July	134.587	0
DENMARK	1	0	May	99.126	0
GERMANY	32	16	June	818.998	4
ESTONIA	N.A.	N.A.	June	18.046	0
FINLAND	0	0	June	57.708	0
GREECE	0	0	January	2.684	0
FRANCE	31	8	March	620.99	1
IRELAND	69	41	June	379.746	14
ITALY	8	7	June	308.667	2
LATVIA	N.A.	N.A.	June	21.107	0
LITHUANIA	N.A.	N.A.	April	31.511	0
LUXEMBURG	1	0	June	6.876	0
NETHERLANDS	3	2	February	83.192	0
POLAND	19	10	June	304.672	6
PORTUGAL	46	33		N.A.	N.A.
SLOVENIA	1	1	July	16.346	1
SLOVAKIA	3	0	June	32.555	0
SPAIN	98	68	June	N.A.	28
SWEDEN	0	1	April	65.066	0
UNITED KINGDOM	225	114	April	279.678	31
Total EU	**549**	**308**		**3.588.104**	**88**

Sources: European Commission[1] and OIE[2]

Midyear 2007 BSE incidences in the European Union continue their steady decline from recent years. The decrease in BSE incidences seems to accelerate as this year's half-year BSE finds number less than one third of last year's half-year cases (see GAIN E36122[3]). However, this is an underestimation of real BSE incidences as numbers for Portugal, one of the member states (MS) with higher BSE incidences, are missing. Nevertheless, the decreasing numbers testify of the European successes in the fight against BSE.

EC 2006 annual TSE monitoring report

The EU 2006 annual TSE monitoring report[4], published on August 10 2007, also extensively documents the decrease in BSE prevalence in EU cattle herds. Data on the increasing age of BSE infected cattle also suggest that BSE prevention measures have been effective in preventing new infections and that the virtual eradication of BSE in the EU is closing in, except in those few MS where BSE struck later and mitigation measures were also implemented later.

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/mthly_reps_bse2007_en.pdf
[2] http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_esb.htm?e1d5
[3] http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200702/146280253.pdf
[4] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/annual_report_tse2006_en.pdf

The report also includes extensive details on TSE monitoring in sheep and goats. Cyprus appears to be severely infected with TSEs as it accounts for 38 percent of all TSE incidences in sheep and almost 90 percent of TSE incidences in goats. Of all tested animals in Cyprus, 20 percent of sheep and 12 percent of goats tested positive for TSEs (see page 68 of the report). In percentage of tested animals, Greece had the second highest incidence of TSEs in sheep, followed by Italy, the United Kingdom, Ireland, The Netherlands, France and Spain. Because 2006 was the first year of increased monitoring and testing of ovines and caprines, it is premature to draw conclusions on the evolution of TSEs in small ruminants in the EU.

Continued implementation of the TSE Roadmap

In 2007, the EC continues to implement new legislation[5] as part of its "TSE Roadmap[6]". EC Regulation 1923/2006 of 18 December 2006 provides for the review of the EU BSE risk status for EU MS and third countries into three categories following the OIE BSE classification. EC Regulation 722/2007 of 25 June 2007 ended the transitional measures under which third countries were presumed to be free of BSE until the formal assessment of their BSE status. As a result of this regulation, countries in which BSE status has not been assessed moved to the undetermined risk category.

Regular updates on the European BSE/TSE situation can be found on our website at http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/srm.html.

Visit our website: our website **http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/**. It enables easy access to USEU reports, trade and other practical information.
E-mail: AgUSEUBrussels@fas.usda.gov

Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E47060	Livestock - Annual	July 24, 07
E47017	BSE update on the EU situation in 2006	March 6, 07
E35164	EU Directorate for Health and Consumer Protection presents its TSE Roadmap	August 23, 05
GM7004	BSE in Germany - Update Covering 2006	January 30, 07
These reports can be accessed through our website http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/ or through the FAS website http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp.		

[5] http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/chronological_list_en.pdf
[6] http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap_en.pdf