



# Fort Wayne-AlLEN County Department of Health

## Guidance for Retail Food Establishments on Mad Cow Disease and Federal Meat Restrictions

*The following information is a guidance document on how the new United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) meat restrictions should be applied in Retail Food Establishments. The information was derived from both FDA and USDA documents as well as information obtained on the FDA and USDA's websites.*

### What is "Mad Cow Disease" (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy - BSE)?

Mad Cow Disease is the layperson's name for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a transmissible, slowly progressive, degenerative, fatal disease affecting the central nervous system of adult cattle. A similar disease (called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease) can affect humans who consume such contaminated beef.

### What is the current situation regarding BSE detection?

On December 23, 2003, the USDA announced a positive case of BSE in a cow from Washington State. In response to this finding and to prevent any potential meat contamination, hundreds of cattle were euthanized and properly disposed.

### What is being done to prevent the spread of BSE in the United States?

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has enacted several rules to further enhance safeguards against BSE. These rules took effect on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004 – and the main one banned certain "Specified Risk Materials" (see below). Specific products derived from cattle that have been banned from the human food chain are as follows (and will be updated as we are made aware of them):

#### From Cattle 30 months of age and older:

Skull

Brain (often scrambled with eggs)

Trigeminal ganglia (Cell clusters of the fifth cranial nerve)

Eyes

Vertebral column

Spinal cord

Dorsal root ganglia (clusters of nerve cells connected to the spinal cord along the vertebral column)

#### From all cattle, regardless of age:

Small intestine (used to make "horumon yaki", "menudo", "tripe\*\*\*", "tripitas", or "tripas")

Tonsils

Sometimes used to make "barbacoa".

\*\*\*If the stomach alone is used to make tripe – this is allowable as the stomach itself is not currently included in the list of banned products.

### How do these new rules affect retail food establishments?

Retail food establishments will no longer be allowed to use any of the above-mentioned products as ingredients in food products – nor will they be allowed to sell them in their facilities. If an establishment is currently using any of these products or if these products are currently displayed for retail sale from purchases made prior to January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004, they are still approved for use. The products will no longer be purchasable or usable if purchased after January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

### Where can I obtain more information on BSE?

Consumers with further questions can phone the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline. The hotline is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day. You can also visit the following websites: <http://www.usda.gov/> or <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/>

WE DID OUR BEST TO TRANSLATE THIS INFORMATION FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, BUT WE DO NOT CLAIM IT IS WITHOUT ERROR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

SPANISH

**Los productos siguientes no se pueden vender, pueden ser preparados, pueden ser servidos, o pueden ser utilizados como un ingrediente de alimento:**

**Del Ganado 30 meses de la edad y más viejo:**

El cráneo

El cerebro (a menudo trepó con huevos)

Los ganglios de Trigeminal (los grupos de la Célula del quinto nervio craneal)

Los ojos

La columna vertebral

La médula espinal

Los ganglios dorsales de la raíz (los grupos de células de nervio conectadas a la médula espinal por la columna vertebral)

**De todo ganado, a pesar de la edad:**

El intestino delgado (utilizó para hacer “yaki de horumon”, “menudo”, “tripe\*\*\*”, “tripitas”, o “tripas”)

Las amígdalas

\*\*\*Si que el estómago se utiliza sólo hacer callos – esto es admisible como el estómago que él mismo no es incluido actualmente en la lista de productos prohibidos.