

Be ready before you call



BSE Surveillance

Is Everyone's Responsibility

Before calling your veterinarian, please remember:

- Only a registered veterinarian certified by the Government of Alberta can participate in the CABSESP.
- Make sure to call the veterinarian promptly, ideally when the animal is still alive. This will increase the chance of collecting a suitable sample and valuable clinical information.
- Cattle exhibiting clinical signs suggesting BSE, such as nervousness or aggressive behaviour, abnormal posture, difficulty rising from a lying position and lack of co-ordination, need to be promptly examined by a veterinarian.
- Producers will be required to provide the veterinarian with the animal history, records, tags and/or tattoos that confirm or estimate the animal's date of birth. In the absence of records, the veterinarian will estimate the age by dentition.
- Purchase documents are helpful in estimating the age of older animals.

It is really important that you as a cattle producer do your part by contacting your veterinarian to assess and collect samples from eligible cattle for BSE testing.

For more information please call
310-FARM (3276)
or visit: www.agriculture.alberta.ca/bse

BSE surveillance is a shared responsibility. Cattle producers, industry, veterinarians and governments all have a role to play.



Why is ongoing BSE testing so important?

BSE testing (surveillance) is a tool used to measure the effectiveness of the actions put in place to control BSE. By doing ongoing BSE surveillance we can demonstrate the reduction of this disease in our province's cattle herd.

By participating in BSE surveillance you will help maintain continuous access to domestic and international markets for our cattle and beef products.



Reimbursement for Producers

Remember: BSE surveillance is voluntary. Producers are reimbursed \$75 for each eligible animal. Reimbursement to producers under the CABSESP is paid to offset the costs to have an animal assessed for eligibility, sampled if eligible, and to retain control of the carcass until the BSE test result is available.

Sample Collection

Samples must be collected by your CABSESP-certified local veterinarian. You will benefit from the disease information that the veterinarian gathers while assessing your animal for the program. **Veterinarians visit your farm at no cost to you.**

Which animals are eligible for testing under the CABSESP?

The Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program (CABSESP) accepts animals *30 months of age and older that are legally possessed by Alberta's farmers* falling into any of the high risk categories.

Animals within the high BSE risk categories include those:

- Showing neurological signs
- Dead
- Dying
- Diseased
- Distressed (injured)

Protecting your investment is as easy as testing your eligible animals for BSE each year.

