

2023 Carroll Co. 4-H & FFA Livestock Exhibitor Feed Assurance Documentation

What is BSE? Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), also known as Mad Cow Disease, is a form of disease that is progressively degenerative to the central nervous system and is fatal. This disease affects ruminant animals.

Ruminant animals are defined as any animals that have a four-chambered stomach; Ruminant animals sold in our sale include cattle, sheep, and goats. Hogs, chickens and rabbits are NOT ruminant animals.

Feeding ruminants protein that comes from potentially contaminated tissues may transmit BSE.

The United States has taken measures to help reduce the risk of American animals contracting the disease. The United States Food and Drug Administration adopted a regulation in 1997 that would prohibit ruminant animal feeds from containing any protein sources that came from ruminant animal tissues. For example, a cattle feed could not have a protein source that came from sheep.

FDA Regulation 21 CFR 589.2000 states that animal proteins are prohibited in ruminant feeds. The FDA defines animal's proteins as "any protein containing portions of mammalian animals.

EXCLUDING: blood and blood products; gelatin; inspected meat products which have been cooked and offered for human food and further processed for feed (such as plate waste and used cellulose food casings); milk products, and any product whose only mammalian protein consists entirely of porcine or equine protein." A full copy of the regulation is on file at the Extension Office.

Because of this regulation, commercial feed suppliers do not include the prohibited ingredients in their prepared mixes. It is important that you do pay attention to feed labels and feed only those feeds that have been missed for that species to that species. Example: hog feeds should not be fed to cattle, sheep, or goats.

Because BSE has been in the news recently, livestock producers need to do everything possible to reassure the public consumers that all steps are being taken to keep our meat supply safe.

A number of packers and processors, as well as retail operations, have established certification programs to ensure that they are receiving animals that have been properly fed and cared for. They have made it clear that they will not accept or purchase any ruminant animals that have been fed any feed containing protein from ruminant animal tissues, or any animals that have illegal levels of drug residues.

What does it mean to you? As a 4-H or FFA project member, you will need to sign, along with your parent or guardian, the certificate of Feed Assurance Quality for your sale animals agreeing that your ruminant animals (cattle, sheep and goats) have not been fed proteins derived from ruminant animal tissue, and that none of your animals (cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, market rabbits, capons) sold will have illegal levels of drug residue. This simply puts into writing the management practices you should be following throughout your project.

If we do not have this form on file, you will not be permitted to sell your animal(s) in the Livestock Sale. This form will help us to assure our buyers and the consumers that you are doing everything you can do to bring them a safe, quality product and could also help you to get a better price for your animal. Questions may be directed to the Extension Office at 410-386-2760.

Livestock Feed Assurance Certificate

Submit Livestock Feed Assurance Certificate to the Carroll County Extension Office no later than **Sunday, July 23, 2023.**

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge, none of my livestock offered for sale in the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale on Friday, August 4, 2023 will be adulterated within the meaning of the FDA's Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

- No ruminates have been fed proteins derived from mammalian tissues as the term is defined in 21 CFR 589.2000
- No livestock sale animals will have an illegal level of drug residues.

Following are tag numbers of my project animals:

Steers: _____ Lambs: _____
Swine: _____ Goats: _____

Printed Name of Exhibitor: _____ Exhibitor Signature: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____