



Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

What is bovine spongiform encephalopathy?

Also known as “mad cow disease,” bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is a progressive neurologic disease caused by abnormal prion proteins. BSE is resistant to treatment.

How is BSE transmitted?

The primary source of infection is through feed containing high-risk ruminant-origin materials such as spinal cord.

What are the signs of infection?

Behavioral changes, weight loss, coordination problems and decreased milk production can all be symptoms of BSE.

What are the testing requirements for BSE?

If you have concerns about an animal possibly being infected, contact [USDA](#) at [\(208\) 373-1620](tel:2083731620) or Animal Industries at [\(208\) 332-8540](tel:2083328540).

What can I do to prevent BSE?

The [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) has regulations in place to safeguard animal feed. Ensure that the feed you purchase is from reputable, well-known sources to take advantage of the protection offered by these regulations.

BSE is a [reportable disease](#) in Idaho.

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If you have a question that is not covered here, please contact Animal Industries by [email](#) or at [\(208\) 332-8540](tel:2083328540).