



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING BSE

WHAT IS BSE?

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, also known as Mad Cow Disease, is a transmissible brain disease of cattle characterized by degeneration of the central nervous system tissue. There is no known cure and the disease is eventually fatal to cattle that have the disease.

HOW IS BSE SPREAD?

All is not completely understood about how BSE is spread. However, we do know for sure that the feeding of infected ruminant tissues back to ruminants is directly linked to the spread of this disease. The agent that causes BSE is not distributed evenly throughout the animal's body, but is concentrated in certain tissues, specifically the brain and spinal cord. Therefore, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration enacted a feed ban to eliminate risky feeding practices. This ban has been in place in the U.S. since 1997 and prohibits the use of ruminant animal protein sources in cattle feeds and supplements. If cattle are not fed ruminant-derived protein, there is virtually no risk of BSE transmission.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY HERD?

You can protect your herd by being aware of and diligently following the current feed restrictions. Namely, make sure that your feed and supplement suppliers fully comply with the FDA's CFR 589.2000 final rule. Sweetlix has implemented a company wide ban against use of mammalian protein ingredients since 1995 and is in full compliance with the CFR 589:2000 final rule. Contact Sweetlix LLC at 1-87SWEETLIX or www.sweetlix.com if you would like to receive confirmation of this in writing.

BUT SOME SWEETLIX LABELS LIST "ANIMAL PROTEIN PRODUCTS" IN THE INGREDIENTS STATEMENT.

The 'animal protein products' used by Sweetlix is hydrolyzed feather meal. All current and future Sweetlix labels use the specific term "hydrolyzed feather meal" and do not use the term "animal protein products" to avoid further confusion.

WHAT IS HYDROLYZED FEATHER MEAL?

This feed ingredient is the product of pressurized treatment of clean poultry feathers. The result is a protein meal that is very high in crude protein at approximately 80%. For this reason, hydrolyzed feather meal is an excellent protein source for cattle and other ruminants that is both safe and economical.

WHAT DO I TELL PEOPLE WHO ASK ME ABOUT MAD COW DISEASE?

The general public needs to know that, according to the most current research and laws in place, the risk of a person consuming infected beef in the United States is extremely low. Contact your state or national cattleman's association for more information on BSE. The National Cattleman's Beef Association web site is www.bseinfo.org, the Cattleman's Beef Board site is www.beefboard.org, and the United States Department of Agriculture site is www.usda.gov.