

VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS  
FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION  
Meat Inspection Service  
MONTPELIER, VT  
Chuck Ross, Secretary



# MIS DIRECTIVE

Adopted from FSIS Directive 10400.1

10400.1

4/11/13

## SAMPLE COLLECTION FROM CATTLE UNDER THE BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) ONGOING SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

### I. PURPOSE

This directive provides the method by which APHIS will be contacted for the collection of BSE Samples from cattle displaying CNS symptoms.

#### KEY POINTS:

- Sets out definition of collection procedures.
- Provides sample collection for cattle displaying CNS symptoms.

### II. DEFINITION OF COLLECTION PROCEDURES

A. At state-inspected establishments Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs) are to:

1. Notify the APHIS AVIC when an animal has been condemned for CNS reasons and provide the following information:
  - a. Condemn tag (Z-tag) numbers (not the Z-tag itself); and
  - b. Disposition information (i.e., the reason for condemnation under 9 CFR Part 309), including history, clinical signs, and the condemnation code assigned.
2. If arrangements with the APHIS AVIC cannot be made, collect appropriate BSE samples from cattle of all ages that display CNS symptoms.

### III. SAMPLE COLLECTION FOR CATTLE DISPLAYING CNS SYMPTOMS

A. The PHV is to make all final disposition decisions regarding whether to condemn cattle in accordance with 9 CFR part 309.

Additional BSE sampling information is provided on the APHIS website at: [Procedure Manual](#).

B. If the responsibility to collect the BSE sample falls to the PHV, the PHV or the establishment under the

**DISTRIBUTION: Electronic**

**OPI: OPPD**

supervision of the PHV is to promptly remove the head in order to collect the brain sample. If the establishment does not arrange to remove the head, the PHV may need to collect the brain sample as a priority over other ante-mortem or post-mortem procedures.

C. The PHV, being mindful of other potential CNS disease conditions of public health significance that may be present, is to collect the brain sample either in the inedible area of the establishment or in an isolated area set aside for such collection to prevent human exposure or the creation of insanitary conditions. Establishment personnel and IPP are to take proper sanitary measures before returning to edible areas of the establishment after brain sample collection, in accordance with 9 CFR 416.5.

D. In situations where the PHV has missed the last UPS pick-up for the day, or the PHV collected the sample on a day when UPS does not pick up, the PHV is to refrigerate the samples until the next available UPS pick-up day. Remember, the sample is not to pass through or to be stored in areas of the establishment where the establishment produces edible product. The PHV is to maintain the sample's chain-of-custody.

E. The PHV is to verify the collection, documentation, and control of all animal identification associated with cattle condemned during ante-mortem inspection that are to be sampled. The PHV is to attach the "U.S. Condemned" tag to cattle condemned during ante-mortem inspection in accordance with 9 CFR 309.13. This documentation will facilitate traceback in the event that the sample result is positive for BSE. The PHV is to include in the documentation all pertinent information to facilitate trace back of the animal in question in accordance with 9 CFR 320.1.

F. The PHV is to verify that the presence of condemned cattle or parts does not create insanitary conditions (9 CFR Part 416). The establishment is responsible for the disposal of the condemned cattle in accordance with 9 CFR part 314. The PHV also is to verify that the establishment maintains records regarding the disposal of the condemned cattle in accordance with 9 CFR 320.1.

G. IPP may inform the establishment that it may choose to hold the carcass and parts until testing results are available. If the establishment chooses to dispose of any carcass or parts before it receives test results, IPP are to advise the establishment that it must dispose of the carcass in one of the following ways:

1. Render it at a facility for non-animal feed use (e.g., biofuel or cement);
2. Alkaline digestion;
3. Incineration; or
4. A lined landfill.

H. Documentation for Cattle Showing Signs of CNS Symptoms

1. The PHV is to forward the completed BSE Veterinary Services Laboratory Submissions (BSE-VSLS) sample collection sheets to the corresponding APHIS VS area office by FAX. The following link lists the VS office FAX numbers and e-mail where available: [site list](#).

**NOTE:** The PHV can get copies of BSE-VSLS forms by contacting the local APHIS office. The APHIS AVIC in each area office may assist with sample delivery verification and troubleshooting.

#### **IV. TEST RESULTS FOR FSIS SAMPLING FROM CATTLE SHOWING CNS SYMPTOMS**

- A. The PHV will receive, by e-mail, a report from the AVIC on the BSE test results.
- B. If the test on the carcass condemned for CNS conditions is negative (reported as “not detected”), then any carcasses and parts the establishment has held may be released for rendering or other disposal in accordance with 9 CFR 314.
- C. If the test is inconclusive, the PHV will receive instruction on further actions.
- D. For any sample confirmed positive for BSE, the PHV is to verify that the establishment disposes of the carcasses and parts in the proper manner as set out in paragraph V.G.

**V. PHIS PROCEDURES FOR BSE SAMPLING FROM CATTLE SHOWING CNS SIGNS**

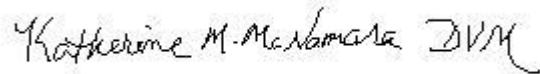
- A. Enter disposition information into PHIS in ADR.
- B. Enter BSE sampling information into the ADR APHIS Lab Sampling page in ADR.

**VI. RABIES**

- A. When an animal is condemned by the PHV on ante-mortem for rabies, the PHV is to contact the Agency of Agriculture State Veterinarian. In these cases, the animal will be tested for rabies. APHIS will work with the state and laboratory to get appropriate samples forwarded for BSE surveillance from rabies-negative animals.
- B. Rabies booster vaccination for PHVs collecting BSE samples is still highly recommended.

**VII. QUESTIONS**

Questions can be referred to the meat inspection office at 802-828-2426.



Assistant State Veterinarian  
VT Meat Inspection Service