

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



MIS DIRECTIVE

Adopted from FSIS Directive 10400.1Rev. 1

10400.1
Rev. 1

4/30/20

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. It provides updated instructions on collecting samples only from cattle that are 12 months of age or older that display signs (e.g., head pressing, circling) of a central nervous system (CNS) disorder.

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 12 months of age or older 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 12 months of age or older 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 all cattle 12 months of age or older if they have signs of a CNS disorder in accordance with 9 CFR 309.4 (a);

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1. The PHV is to advise the establishment to not euthanize the animal until after the PHV has communicated with the APHIS AVIC to determine if euthanasia should be delayed; and
2. The PHV is not to allow the establishment to move cattle 12 months of age or older condemned on ante-mortem for CNS reasons off the establishment's premises until APHIS collects the sample or APHIS requests otherwise.

NOTE: BSE sampling information is provided on the APHIS website in the [Procedure Manual](#) for the BSE ongoing surveillance program.

B. If the responsibility to collect the BSE sample falls to the PHV, the PHV is to direct the establishment to humanely euthanize the animal. Then, the PHV or someone from the establishment under the direction of the PHV is to promptly remove the head to allow the PHV to collect the brain sample.

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 (9 CFR 314.7). 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. 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. PHVs can find forms and order supplies using the following links or address:

1. BSE Surveillance Data Collection Form: [VS 17-131](#);
2. BSE Surveillance Submission Form: [VS 17-146](#);
3. BSE Surveillance Submission Continuation Form: [VS 17-146a](#);
4. BSE Kits and Shipping Containers:

National Veterinary Services Laboratories
1800 Dayton Avenue
Ames, IA 50010
Ph: (515) 663-7530 Fax: (515) 663-7378

5. Kit and Instrument Order Form: [Supply Request Form](#)

G. 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.

H. 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, after consultation with the APHIS AVIC, 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.

I. Documentation for Cattle 12 Months of age or older 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. Instructions for completing the sample collection sheets may also be found in the Procedure Manual ([Procedure Manual](#)).

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. THIS PROCEDURES FOR BSE SAMPLING FROM CATTLE SHOWING CNS SIGNS

A. PHVs are to enter disposition information into PHIS in Animal Disposition Reporting (ADR) following instructions in [FSIS Directive 6100.2](#), “*Post-Mortem Livestock Inspection*.”

B. PHVs are to enter BSE sampling information into the ADR APHIS Lab Sampling page in ADR. (Refer to [FSIS Directive 13,000.2](#), “*Performing Sampling Tasks in Official Establishments Using the Public Health Information System*” under “BSE Testing.”)

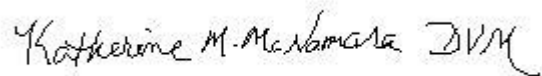
VI. RABIES

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 and titer checks for PHVs collecting BSE samples are still highly recommended, and provided for by the State of Vermont.

VII. QUESTIONS

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine M. McNamee DVM". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Assistant State Veterinarian
VT Meat Inspection Service