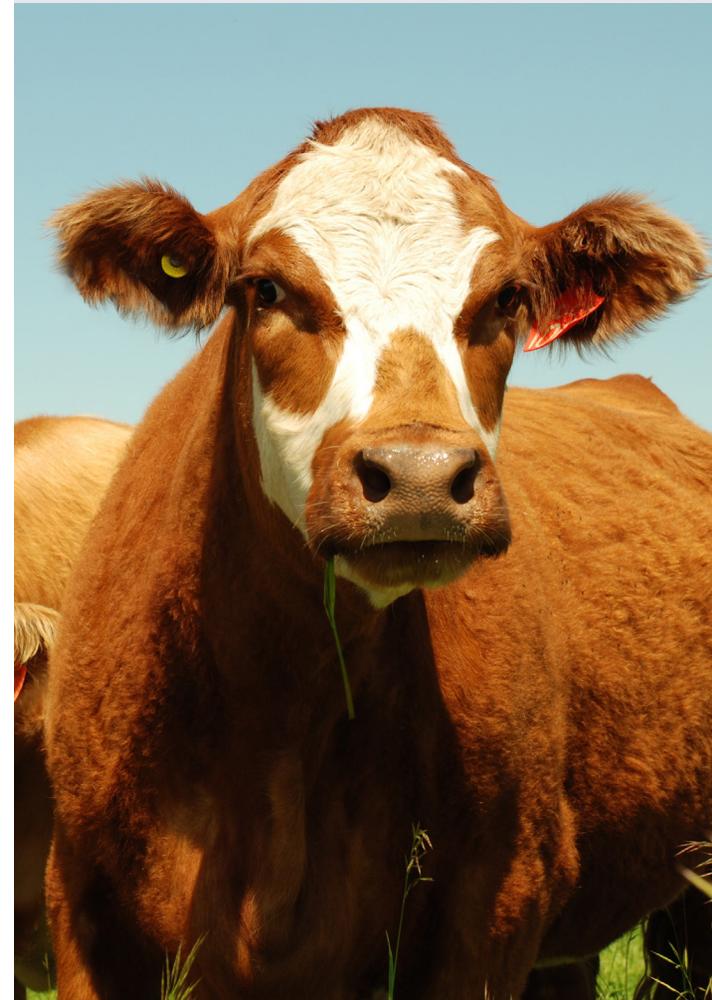




## Industry Partners in Support of BSE Testing in Saskatchewan:



### How does Canada's BSE Surveillance Program work?

For the cattle industry to maintain market access, we need to show that the risk of BSE in Canada is extremely low. Canada must meet a minimum annual BSE surveillance target of 30,000 tests to show that cases of BSE are decreasing. Eventually, the goal is to show the absence of BSE entirely, and prove the effectiveness of control measures.

Each province is assigned a number of tests based on the cattle population in the province. Saskatchewan producers are required to test approximately 7,500 animals each year.

Currently, Canada has a "controlled risk" BSE status. This means that even though BSE has been found in Canada in the past, proper surveillance, feed bans, reporting and education programs are in place. These activities must continue in order to maintain, or eventually improve, our status.

### Did you know?

If each cattle producer tested one animal a year, we would exceed BSE targets, maintain current market access and contribute to industry prosperity for years to come.

### Who can I contact for more information?

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA):

- Visit [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)
- Phone 1-877-727-5273

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture:

- Visit [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/BSE](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/BSE)
- Phone the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

# BSE TESTING

Protect Your Investment

## What is my role?

For Canada to have a strong bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program, producers need to be involved.

As a cattle producer, your participation in BSE surveillance is crucial to maintain Canada's international market access.

## I think I have an eligible animal, what should I do?

### Step 1:

Ensure that the animal is over 30 months old and dead, down, chronically ill (diseased) or unfit for transport.

### Step 2:

Contact your local veterinarian or Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) district office. If you are not sure who this is, call 1-877-727-5273 to find out.

*Note:* CFIA does not charge, but sample collection is limited to regular working hours. Private veterinarians will charge for sampling and are reimbursed \$100 by the National BSE program.

### Step 3:

Whoever you choose to take the sample will request information on the animal's history and basic farm information. They will also arrange a time to collect a sample at your farm.



### Step 4:

Upon arrival at your farm, a history of any illness, animal identification and age will be requested.

### Step 5:

You will be asked to sign a contract stating that you agree to control the carcass until test results are received. In return, for every eligible sample, you will receive \$75.

### Step 6:

The veterinary clinic or CFIA inspector will remove the animal's head and collect the obex (part of the brain) through the opening in the back of the skull.

*Note:* Veterinarians on farm for a chronic illness or a post mortem can sample and submit from these animals too.

### Step 7:

The sample is sent to a lab for testing.

### Step 8:

Within two weeks, you should be contacted with the test results.

### Step 9:

*If results are negative,* no further action is required and the animal carcass no longer has to be controlled.

*If results are positive,* the carcass will be collected by CFIA for further sampling and destruction. A detailed history of the animal will be collected to identify where it was born and what feed it was exposed to in its first year of life. Other animals born within a year of the positive animal, as well as those fed the same feed supplement in the first year of life, will be investigated.

## What happens to my herd if a BSE positive animal is found?

Your entire herd **will not** be depopulated. The positive carcass will be collected and destroyed. Other animals from the herd born a year before and after the positive animal and fed the same feed supplement in the first year of life will be traced, quarantined and destroyed with compensation at market value.

## Is there a cost to have an animal tested?

The cost depends on who you choose to collect the sample for testing. CFIA does not charge, but sample collection is limited to regular working hours. Private veterinarians are reimbursed \$100 by the National BSE program, but may charge extra for mileage and/or calls after hours. Costs associated with controlling the carcass until test results are received are also your responsibility.

## Why is testing important?

BSE testing numbers have a direct impact on international market access.

Currently, Canadian producers have international market access because we have demonstrated a low and declining level of BSE through participation in BSE testing. It is important that producers continue to support this essential program through submission of samples for testing.

Protect your most important investment, your cattle herd, by testing your eligible animals for BSE.