

08 April 2026

NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO BSE

I confirm that New Zealand's animal health situation with regard to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is as follows.

- New Zealand has never had a case of BSE.
- Importation of live cattle from the United Kingdom was banned in December 1988. Between 1999 and 2017, live cattle imports were still permitted from Australia; a suspension of these took effect in August 2017. Since 2013 no live cattle have been imported into New Zealand from anywhere in the world.
- New Zealand does not allow the importation of meat and bone meal for feeding to livestock. New Zealand's livestock industry is primarily pastoral-based. New Zealand's [Biosecurity \(Ruminant Protein\) Regulations 1999](#) prohibits the feeding of ruminant protein to ruminant animals. These Regulations, which came into force on 1 January 2000, replaced a voluntary industry ban which had operated since mid-1996.
- The importation of bovine semen and embryos from the United Kingdom was prohibited from early 1996 until January 2000 (semen) and June 2001 (embryos), at which time importation was permitted to resume in accordance with the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- New Zealand's conditions covering the importation of cattle embryos and semen from countries (other than the UK) in which cases of BSE have been reported are based on the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- New Zealand has a targeted surveillance programme to identify BSE, should it occur. The causal agent of BSE is notifiable under New Zealand's [Biosecurity \(Notifiable Organisms\) Order 2016](#).
- In May 2007 the World Organisation for Animal Health recognised New Zealand as a country with a negligible BSE risk.



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