

18 September 2020

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.
- There has been a ban on the importation of live cattle from the United Kingdom since December 1988. Importation of live cattle from Australia was suspended with effect from 7 August 2017. With this suspension, live cattle can no longer be imported into New Zealand from anywhere in the world.
- New Zealand has never allowed 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 OIE 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 OIE 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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