5.1 Target Populations

Consistent with international obligations, national BSE surveillance activities are ongoing. Canada conducts surveillance testing for BSE in targeted high risk bovine sub-populations as recommended by the OIE in its Terrestrial Animal Health Code[1]. The probability of detecting BSE in targeted high risk bovine populations has been documented to be six times greater than the probability of detecting BSE in an apparently healthy animal. The sampling of targeted high risk populations is more efficient and cost-effective than the random sampling of a far greater number of samples required from healthy cattle. Because Canada removes SRM to protect public health, it is not necessary to test animals in the human food chain.

Adult cattle over 30 months of age are selected from the following categories or target sub-populations:

1. Cattle displaying clinical signs of neurological disease not consistent with the definition of a BSE suspect animal.

2. The high risk sub-populations include the following:
   a) cattle found dead by undetermined causes;
   b) cattle that are non-ambulatory and may be euthanized for humane reasons;
   c) cattle that display an acute (distressed) or chronic (diseased) deviation from normal behaviour or appearance including changes in the following:
      i) locomotor status such as weakness, abnormal head carriage, ataxia, circling, changes in gait,
      ii) sensory status such as kicking, blindness, head pressing, head shyness, sensitivity to touch, or
      iii) mental status such as apprehension, change in behaviour, abnormal ear position, nervousness, apprehension about passing through entrances, teeth grinding, aggressive behaviour.

Note: All **BSE suspect** cases must be tested. (Please see definition of **BSE suspect** in section *2.1 Policy (4)* and *3.1 BSE Suspect.*)

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[1] http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_3.8.4.htm

5.2 Surveillance On Farm

1.   Determine if the animal meets the criteria of a BSE surveillance case.

Note: If the inspector believes that the animal meets the criterial of a BSE suspect refer to *3.1 BSE Suspect* for procedures.

Note: If the clinical signs and history do not rule out rabies, a CFIA inspector must visit the farm to collect and submit a sample for rabies and BSE testing.

2.   Complete the BSE Surveillance Responder's Questionnaire found in *6.3 Appendix 3* as follows.
   • Confirm the age of the animal;
   • Determine if the animal was seen by a veterinarian and, if so, the name of the veterinary practitioner;
   • Record whether the animal is diseased, dying, dead, or down; and
   • If the animal is dead, determine how long it has been dead.

3.   If the animal is determined to be a possible BSE surveillance case and the animal is still alive, advise producers that they have the option of consulting a private veterinarian. Producers may be entitled to up to $100.00 to help defray the cost of a veterinary consultation that results in the collection of an eligible BSE surveillance sample, and $75.00 to help with the disposal cost of the carcass; however, the cost of euthanizing an animal in the absence of a veterinary consultation and sample submission is not eligible. The private veterinarian and the producer must complete and sign *CFIA 5372—Producer/Veterinarian Agreement Form.* (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/for/pdf/c5372e.pdf) The originals of the form are to be provided to the district office along with the surveillance specimen procured by the private veterinarian. The CFIA inspector receiving the specimen will determine if it is deemed to be an eligible sample based on the terms of reference listed on Schedule A of the form. The inspector will forward the original signed agreement to the Area Office for payment and submit the sample to the CFIA laboratory.

4.   Surveillance animals should not be ordered destroyed by CFIA staff. If the potential surveillance case is still alive and the producer does not wish to bring in a private veterinarian for a consultation and sample collection, the producer may allow the animal to die naturally or have the animal humanely destroyed (by veterinarian or producer). However, the costs of euthanizing an animal or disposing of the carcass, in the absence of a veterinary consultation and sample submission, are not eligible for defrayment by the CFIA. If the animal is still alive, instruct the owner to notify the CFIA district office immediately upon the death of the animal so that a sample can be retrieved by a CFIA inspector in a timely fashion. Advise producers of their entitlement to $75.00 to help defray the costs of disposal of the carcass.

Advise producers that they will have to complete and sign *CFIA 5372* before the sample is collected by the CFIA inspector. The inspector will forward the original completed copy of the form to the CFIA Area office for payment.

5. Discuss the disposal of the carcass with the producer. The carcass of a BSE surveillance animal may be buried or incinerated, or the producer may have the carcass collected by a deadstock operator. However, such carcasses are to be held until confirmation of test results.

    Alternatively, complete and issue *CFIA 4206—Requirement to Quarantine and/or License to Transport Animals or Things* to officially detain the carcass until the test results are known.

6. It is recommended that the carcass of an animal euthanized with a barbiturate not be collected as commercial deadstock.

7. Depending on provincial and individual circumstances, it may be appropriate to provide a written record of instructions for disposal of the carcass by issuing *CFIA 2996—Declaration of an Inspector*. The carcass maybe incinerated or buried in accordance with federal, provincial, and municipal requirements, or the owner may maintain control of the carcass until negative test results are confirmed, at which point they may contract the collection of the carcass by a commercial deadstock operator.

5.3 Surveillance at Deadstock Collection Sites

1. Targeted district offices will be collecting BSE surveillance samples from deadstock collection sites under contract to the CFIA. The district office staff involved in collecting samples at these sites will aid in the reconciliation of the number of samples collected on a monthly basis for the purpose of payment.

2. Collect appropriate samples and submit as surveillance samples in accordance with *6.1 Appendix 1*. Include all pertinent information (e.g. information regarding source abattoir) and identifiers.

3. Take appropriate action to ensure that all parts of a carcass can be identified and matched with the head and the sample that was submitted.

4. All tested carcasses are to be held at the deadstock collection site until test results are received. Upon receipt of negative test results, lift any and all restrictions on the carcasses. If a positive test is obtained refer to procedures in *3 Procedures*.

5.4 Surveillance at Abattoirs

1. All cattle presented for slaughter must be inspected for evidence of central nervous system disease. Cattle exhibiting such signs must be held and referred to an animal health inspector. A bovine that does NOT fit the BSE case definition in *2.1 Policy (4)* may be sampled under the BSE surveillance program.

2. The carcass in its entirety (including all inedible portions) must be kept separate and held until BSE and (if appropriate) rabies test results are known. Complete and issue *CFIA 4206—Requirement to Quarantine and/or License to Transport Animals or Things* to detain the carcass in its entirety until test results are known or license the carcass in its entirety for removal to an approved site for burial or incineration. Ensure that the animal identification is noted on the quarantine form. If the abattoir does not have the capacity to hold the carcass until the test results are known, it may be licensed for removal to an alternate location where it can be held in quarantine pending test results. Upon receipt of negative test results, all restrictions are removed from the carcass in its entirety.