

Wished to be considered for Theme 6, Global Response, BSE

BSE In Germany – Surveillance Activities And Control Measures – An Update

H.-J. Bätza; Kramer, M. Staubach, C.

Dr. Bätza, Hans-Joachim
Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture
Department Animal Disease Control
Bonn, Germany

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Since the first domestic case officially confirmed in Germany on 26 November 2000, the active surveillance measures were intensified. Since the beginning of the active surveillance measures at the end of 2000, nearly 12 million cattle were tested for BSE (June 2005). Altogether 382 cases were reported (at the date of 02 September 2005).

On average about 1.6 BSE cases per week are confirmed in Germany. With respect to the age distributions of the BSE cases, about 58,9 % of all domestic cases confirmed originated out of the years 1995 and 1996. Single BSE cases of cattle born in 1985 and between 1990 and 1993 indicate, that there is evidence for circulation of BSE infectivity among the German cattle population probably since the middle of the eighties of the last century.

The spatial analysis of the BSE cases with respect to the place of the farm where the BSE affected cattle were kept before the death and the place of birth respectively revealed that the occurrence of BSE cases in general follows the cattle density of the referred regions. The possible reasons of some detected geographical clusters, the evolution of BSE and the absence of BSE in some densely populated areas will be discussed.