

Poster topic 06

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Assessment of the financial consequences of ten years bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Germany
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The first autochthonous case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Germany was detected on 26 November 2000 in the course of voluntary testing. Since then, a total of 413 BSE cases have been confirmed, resulting in the culling and destruction of 17,313 heads of cattle. In Germany, the legislation prevailing in the European Union was supplemented with a number of national regulations leading to extra requirements relating to (1) BSE surveillance in cattle; (2) the number of carcasses that had to be condemned after detection of a BSE case in a slaughterhouse; and (3) the feed ban, which also included animal fats. We assessed the cost implications of control measures enacted in response to BSE for Germany. The highest costs were caused by BSE-induced regulations on animal by-products (removal of Specified Risk Material, extension of the feed ban to all livestock, compulsory incineration of category 1 material, etc.) with a total of about 1.5 billion Euros. BSE surveillance in cattle cost 594 million Euros, an intervention programme to stabilize the beef market implemented in 2001/2002 about 64.7 million Euros, and compensation payments for culled cattle in BSE affected farms including animal value, culling, rendering and safe disposal about 20 million Euros. Other cost factors accounted for in this study included research with more than 7 million Euros, destruction of carcasses following the detection of a BSE positive animal in a slaughterhouse with 3.4 million Euros and epidemiological investigations on the BSE affected farms with about 1.2 million Euros. The total economic impact of BSE in Germany between 2000 and 2010 is estimated to amount to more than 2 billion Euros.