

BSE

Which Public Health Protection Measures?



The first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was detected in the United Kingdom in 1986, and the European Commission in 1989 instituted a series of measures aimed at controlling the risk of BSE within the European Union and safeguarding both animal and consumer health. Legislation has since been very regularly updated to take account of continuing advances in scientific knowledge. In France, the main measures cover feed for farmed animals, epidemiological surveillance programmes and the removal and disposal of specified risk materials (SRM).

Feed for farmed animals

1994	Ban on feeding meat and bone meal (MBM) to ruminants (from 1990 onwards for bovine animals in France).
2000	Ban on the use of MBM in feedstuffs destined for all animal species the products of which are destined for human consumption.
2013	Authorisation for the use of processed animal protein (PAP) derived from non- ruminants (pigs and poultry) in farmed fish feed.

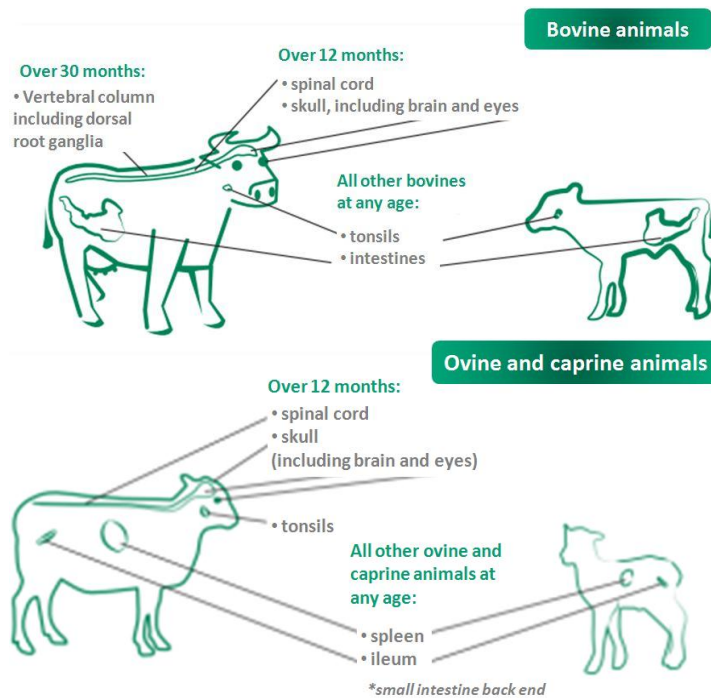
NB: PAP are derived exclusively from the by-products of healthy animals, the meat of which has been declared safe by veterinary services, unlike MBM derived from by-products liable to present a health risk prior to processing.

Epidemiological surveillance programmes

Clinical Surveillance	Identification of infected adult bovine animals in the herd, showing signs suggestive of BSE.
Screening of at-risk animals (tests)	Bovine animals of 48 months and over found dead on the farm, those injured and emergency slaughtered or those excluded from slaughter <i>ante mortem</i> and humanely killed. These bovine animals may either present an atypical form of BSE ¹ , or be in the BSE incubation period.
Screening of healthy animals slaughtered for human consumption (tests)	Bovine animals aged 72 months and over, slaughtered for human consumption, presenting no suggestive clinical signs but which may be within the incubation period. (as of January 2013, Europe has authorised the termination of these tests)

Removal of specified risk materials (SRM)

SRM are organs or tissues liable to pose the risk of infection in animals infected with or incubating BSE. Their removal is mandatory for all carcasses destined for human consumption and destroyed by incineration.



Number of tests and classic/atypical¹ BSE cases in France by year and per surveillance program (Sources: ANSES)

		1991-1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
Clinical Surveillance	Cases	76	98	89	43	13	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	329
	Suspicion	326	404	472	211	139	56	27	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	1647
Screening of at-risk animals	Cases			84/1	120/2	84/3	28/1	18	4/1	4/2	2/3	4/4	1/3	3	1	372/21
	Tests			121 361	256 719	274 301	255 400	241 438	243 144	256 198	315 040	301 273	312 191	310 997	313 216	3 201 278
Screening of healthy animals slaughtered for human consumption	Cases			84	73/1	36/1	17	11/1	2	2/1	1/1	2/1	1	0	0	229/6
	Tests			2 352 284	2 929 009	2 915 368	2 611 983	2 349 297	2 206 254	2 126 870	2 126 948	1 483 506	1 482 173	1 321 375	937 725	24 842 792

To find out more:

- Encéphalopathies spongiformes des ruminants et santé publique. CIV 2013.
- www.civ-viande.org

(1) Atypical BSE: BSE presenting a different strain to classic BSE. The origin of these cases remains uncertain although the main hypothesis is that it is a spontaneously-occurring variant of the disease. The number of such cases has remained stable and low in France since being identified in 2004.