



## USDA'S BSE TESTING PROTECTING AMERICA'S HERD



# USDA'S BSE TESTING PROGRAM USDA Answers Your Questions

**PRODUCER:** What is USDA's Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Testing Program?

**USDA:** It is a one-time effort that will provide a snapshot of our cattle population to help determine whether BSE is present in the United States. Samples will be taken from slaughter facilities, rendering plants, livestock auctions, veterinary clinics, public health laboratories, and farms and ranches.

**PRODUCER:** How will the testing be done?

**USDA:** USDA personnel will collect brain samples and send them to an existing network of state and federal laboratories approved to conduct rapid-testing for BSE. If a sample tests inconclusive there, confirmatory testing will be done by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa.

**PRODUCER:** Why does USDA need my help?

**USDA:** While most of the samples will come from off-farm sources, some samples will need to come directly from producers. This is especially true in states that do not have disposal facilities, such as rendering or salvage slaughter facilities.

**PRODUCER:** Where can I learn more about the BSE Testing Program and find out what I can do to help?

**USDA:** More information is available through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-536-7593 and online at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse.html>.



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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