

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** June 07, 2021

**Report Number:** CA2021-0033

**Report Name:** Canada Receives BSE Negligible Risk Status

**Country:** Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

On May 27, 2021, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) confirmed Canada's successful application for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) negligible risk status.

While Canada has regained full beef access in certain markets, the recent negligible risk status [recognition](#) may help Canada regain access to markets that have previously limited imports of Canadian beef due to BSE concerns. The negligible risk status is the lowest risk status established by the OIE.<sup>1</sup> Canada had been deemed a BSE controlled risk country since 2007.

## **Background**

In 2003, Canada's first case of BSE was detected, resulting in widespread market closures for Canada's beef and live cattle. This had a significant negative impact on the Canadian cattle industry as Canada exports over 40 percent of its beef production and the United States is an important market for Canada's live cattle exports. Four months after the reported BSE case, some markets began to resume access for Canadian beef under certain conditions. The United States initially re-opened to Canadian beef imports with restrictions on certain products and beef products from cattle over thirty months of age. In 2005, the United States resumed imports of Canadian live cattle and beef from cattle over thirty months of age. However, due to the widespread market closures and restrictions, the Canadian cattle industry estimates that BSE resulted in direct losses of CAD 4.9-5.5 billion from 2003 to 2006, along with numerous cattle producers exiting the industry in ensuing years. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association also notes that over two million acres of Canadian pasture lands were converted to other uses along with this exodus of cattle producers. Since 2007, Canada has been recognized as a controlled risk status country by the OIE and has been working towards regaining lost market access. Another BSE detection in 2015, from an animal born in 2009, impeded these efforts. The United States was recognized by OIE as negligible risk for BSE in 2013.

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<sup>1</sup> The OIE officially recognizes two BSE risk categories: negligible risk and controlled risk. A region which is not recognized by these two categories is deemed as an undetermined BSE risk status.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.