

CATTLE

Eligible cattle must:

- be no younger than 30 months old
- be less than nine years
- display signs consistent with BSE

Clinical signs can include:

- changes in behaviour and neurological signs
- excessive licking of the nose and flanks
- poor coordination (circling, staggering and falling)
- muscle tremors
- abnormal posture (abnormal ear position and abnormal head carriage)
- difficulty in rising (downer)
- paralysis
- excitability
- increased or decreased sensitivity to sound, pain, heat, cold or touch

If you have cattle or sheep displaying any of these signs, contact your veterinarian or your state/territory government animal health officer to determine whether you are eligible for an incentive payment.



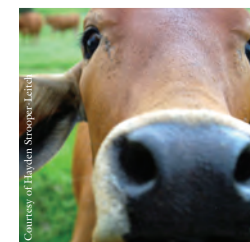
FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require further information about the NTSESP or more information about the diseases visit the Animal Health Australia website at: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

BUCKS FOR BRAINS

bucks for brains

May 2014



www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

Producers who submit eligible sheep and cattle brains for testing can receive generous incentive payments whilst helping Australia maintain market access for its livestock industries.

The testing program for cattle and sheep brains is designed to confirm Australia's proof of freedom from transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).



WHAT ARE TSEs?

TSEs are rare, fatal diseases that cause gradual deterioration in the brain and other central nervous system tissues. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as 'Mad Cow' disease, is the form seen in cattle, while scrapie is the form seen in sheep.

THE NATIONAL TSE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA

The National TSE Surveillance Program (NTSESP) helps Australia meet guidelines set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to demonstrate Australia's freedom from BSE and scrapie. In order to meet these guidelines, Australia must continue to collect, examine and test eligible cattle and sheep samples.

INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

By submitting your eligible animals, through your veterinarian or regional animal health officer, you will receive \$300 for cattle samples and \$100 for sheep samples. The incentive payment is for a maximum of two animals per veterinary investigation.

Veterinarians also receive a separate incentive payment to cover the cost of all laboratory fees and subsidise the cost of freighting samples to accredited laboratories.

As veterinarian costs are reduced for TSE testing, producers may be able to have the actual illness diagnosed at a reduced cost.

Even if you think you know what disease or condition your animal is suffering from, if it is displaying signs consistent with a TSE, consider having it tested to rule out BSE or scrapie. Samples are always needed.



WHICH SHEEP AND CATTLE ARE ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the incentive payment, animals must:

1. be examined by a veterinarian or government animal health officer
2. be displaying signs consistent with BSE or scrapie
3. be within the appropriate age groups

The clinical signs of BSE and scrapie can also be common to many other diseases and this is the reason specific testing is required.

SHEEP

Eligible sheep must:

- be no less than 18 months of age
- be preferably no older than five years of age
- display signs consistent with scrapie

Clinical signs can include:

- changes in temperament
- mild behavioural and neurological signs
- apprehension
- loss of wool on flank and hind quarters
- rubbing or scratching
- poor coordination (circling, staggering and falling)
- muscle tremors
- abnormal posture (abnormal head carriage)
- difficulty in rising
- paralysis
- agitation



bucks for brains