

08/23/2003 Entry: "USDA and the Canadian BSE Case"

USDA and the Canadian BSE case

We have had several calls about the issue with USDA and the Canadian BSE case. These are some facts that we know:

1. Cattlemen in the USA are very concerned for the Canadian producer and the effect on their market by the disease.
2. Canada has about 12.8 million head of cattle compared to the USA with about 95 million.
3. Canadian producers are facing prices that are devastating to their industry with just one known case of BSE.
4. Packers again have used market power to put producers at odds from both sides of the borders when packers are heavily involved in all the trading.
5. Canada closed it's border to imports from Japan after they reported a BSE case earlier, it is still in effect today.
6. Canada does have a 7 year time frame prohibiting livestock trade and importing from any disease known country or trading partner.
7. The USDA was used by the packers and some organizations who represent and lobby for the packers interest, to "quickly reopen the border and resume trade".
8. Producer should remember what the market in the USA did after just a "rumor" in Holton, Kansas over a Foot and Mouth rumor was leaked to the media, we lost \$10.00 in the cash market on just a "rumor".
9. We continue to lose our domestic markets to imports?
10. U.S. herd is in decline from 113 million head to currently less than 95 million – While Imports of Beef and cattle are rising from 3 million to over 6.8 million head!
11. 1999 - Chairman Lynn M. Bragg, U.S. International Trade Commission, stated:
"...a relatively small volume of imports can have a significant effect on domestic prices.

"...concentration of packers increases the packers' leverage relative to cattle producers, thus providing packers the ability to use imports to reduce domestic live cattle prices and/or prevent price increases.

"I find that the domestic industry producing live cattle is materially injured by reason of imports of the subject merchandise from Canada sold into the United States at less than-fair-value."

REMEMBER THIS: THE 40% OF BEEF ALLOWED FROM CANADA INTO THE U.S.A. IS NOT FOR USE IN JAPAN or KOREA! Once again the packers will use cheap imports to sell to the highest priced retail market, the USA!

KCA CARES, DO YOU? CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!

We need sound science and safety for our markets in the reopening of the Canadian border as well as a controlled border opening with fair trade not free trade!

Kansas Cattlemen's Association
402 Kansas Ave.
P.O.Box 251
Brewster, Kansas 67732
Phone: 877-694-2906
Web: www.kansascattlemen.com
Email: cowsrus@st-tel.net