Animal Health, Food Safety and the Information Requirements - the case of BSE in Canada -

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Outline

- Government information requirements
- Economic impacts
- Canadian beef industry
- Discovery of BSE
- Impact of the export ban
- Measuring the impacts on the beef industry
- Summary and observations
Government information requirements

- **Food safety:**
  - public health and food safety regulations
  - quality assurance systems (HACCP, Hazard Analysis, Critical Control Points)
  - product traceability systems to quickly identify and isolate diseased animals and animal diseases

- **Economic impacts:**
  - livestock inventories,
  - slaughter,
  - domestic sales, imports and exports, and
  - prices
Food safety

- Statistical agencies are clearly not responsible for animal health and food safety, disease identification, and tracing.
- Animal health or food inspection agencies have responsibility for food safety.
Economic impacts

Statistical agencies are responsible for providing timely measures of the socio-economic impacts.

- cattle numbers
- slaughter
- domestic sales
- exports
- imports
- prices
Canadian beef industry

- 16.8 million head as of July 2004.
- Beef industry delivers 60% more beef than Canadians can eat.
- One in three Canadian farm families derive at least half of their farm income from the sale of cattle and calves.
Discovery of BSE

- discovery of a single reported case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), May 20, 2003.
- immediate ban on all Canadian exports of beef and live cattle.
- August 2003, the United States and a number of other countries announce they will accept boneless beef from animals under 30 months of age.
- Export ban remains in place for all live cattle and calves.
Impact of the export ban

- only boneless beef (from animals under 30 months of age) may be exported.
- no exports of Canadian live cattle and calves.
- cattle herd increasing by 20,000 animals a week.
- oversupply of slaughter animals under 30 months of age and depressed cattle prices.
- calf prices are in decline.
- collapse of market for cattle over 30 months.
- cutbacks in the meat rendering industry.
- some farmers are going out of business.
Measuring the impacts on the Canadian beef industry

- cattle numbers,
- slaughter,
- domestic sales,
- exports,
- imports, and
- prices.
### World’s six largest live cattle exporters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>(1,074)</td>
<td>France (1,216)</td>
<td>France (1,508)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>(803)</td>
<td>Canada (1,168)</td>
<td>Mexico (482)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>(411)</td>
<td>Australia (332)</td>
<td>Canada (426)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>(279)</td>
<td>Mexico (307)</td>
<td>Australia (317)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>(271)</td>
<td>Germany (235)</td>
<td>Germany (291)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>(152)</td>
<td>Belgium (147)</td>
<td>Belgium (162)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: COMTRADE Database, United Nations, Statistics Division,
World exports of Canadian cattle and beef

Exports of Canadian cattle and beef

Source: International Trade Division, Statistics Canada
Canadian beef exports

Source: International Trade Division, Statistics Canada
Canadian beef imports

Source: International Trade Division, Statistics Canada
Slaughter

Slaughter, federally and provincially inspected cattle and calves

Thousands of Cattle and Calves

Source: Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada
Farm prices of cattle and calves compared to retail beef prices

Source: Prices Division and Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada
Summary and observations

- Animal health and food inspection agencies have responsibility for food safety and the administrative data associated with the regulations protecting citizens from animal disease and food borne illness.

- Statistical agencies are responsible for providing timely measures of the impacts of food borne illness or animal disease on the economy.

- Statistics for measuring economic impacts are readily available; cattle numbers, prices, slaughter, domestic sales, exports, and imports.