L.5.- Point of view from USA

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The United States (US) Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) main strategy for preventing the establishment and spread of BSE in the United States is to control feed intended for ruminant animals. FDA regulation Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 589.2000 prohibits with some exceptions the use of mammalian proteins in feed intended for cattle and other ruminants. In response to the December 2003, diagnosis of BSE in a cow presented for slaughter in Washington State, the US government developed strategies that would provide additional protection to the US consumers. While some measures have been introduced, others are being considered. For example, FDA announced its intention to amend 21 CFR 589.2000 to reduce further the potential for BSE to amplify in the US cattle herd. Compliance with feed regulations is essential to the prevention of the disease. Feed tests capable of detecting prohibited ingredients, would greatly facilitate assessing compliance with feed regulations. Currently available tests are based on analyses of DNA, bone, or protein. None of the tests is definitive, meaning that the primary way of enforcing feed regulations continues to be through facility and record inspections at renderers, feed mills, and other handlers of prohibited ingredients. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is another transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, affecting the American deer and elk populations. Because the potential risks from CWD to humans or non-cervid animals, such as poultry and swine, are not well understood, and because CWD's route of transmission is poorly understood, FDA has recommended that material from CWD-positive animals not be used in any animal feed or feed ingredients. Any animal feed containing such materials would be considered adulterated and subject to recall or other types of removal from the marketplace.

Keywords

BSE, FDA, animal feed, testing, CW