

P.2. - BSE in Switzerland, Chronology of Events and Measures, Activities of the BSE-Unit.

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This presentation gives an overview of the most important events and measures taken in the field of BSE since the first reported case in Great Britain in 1986 and also describes the concept of surveillance and inspections developed to reach two main goals: Eradication of BSE and Consumer Health Protection. Measures such as MBM ban and elimination of risk material from the feed and food chain were taken rapidly to prevent the spreading of the disease. Training and research were intensified to detect possible cases, and the first case in Switzerland was described in 1990. Statistics of the number of cases of BSE per year show that a rapid increase of the cases took place up to a maximum of 68 in 1995, and a delay of five years was observable before the measures taken had an effect on the number of cases. After a second smaller wave of cases in the years 1999 to 2001 was observed, the decrease shown is now steady and no cases have yet been reported in 2004.

Switzerland has used the fast BSE-tests since 1999 for epidemiological reasons, and the number of these tests per year is presented.

Information on TSE in Switzerland is also given and the number and type of inspections done by the BSE-Unit in 2003 is enumerated.

Internet Links: www.alp.admin.ch and www.bse-einheit.ch

Keywords

Switzerland, BSE cases, TSE, BSE-tests, Inspections