



British Columbia BSE Surveillance Top-Up 2006 Program

Questions and Answers:

1. What is the purpose of the top-up program?

The purpose of the top-up program is to assist British Columbia and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) attain the required level of BSE surveillance, nationally and for British Columbia, specifically.

2. Why is British Columbia supporting the enhanced BSE surveillance of dairy and beef cattle?

British Columbia is supporting the program to encourage both beef and dairy producers to provide samples for BSE testing. The program will support the requirement for samples from dairy and beef and meet the regional distribution requirements of CFIA.

3. How do I apply for the program?

Beef and dairy producers can apply to the program by completing the short application form and providing the program administration a copy of the cheque stub provided by CFIA indicating participation in the National BSE Surveillance Program.

Application forms are available at: BCAC, #140- 32160 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford BC V2T 1W5 Telephone 604.854.4483 or toll free at 1.866.522.3447 and the form can also be downloaded is also included below.

4. Who is eligible to apply for the program?

The program is available to British Columbia taxpayers or equivalent corporate entities who were in lawful possession of the animal at the time of sampling. The cheque stub from CFIA for participating in the National BSE Surveillance program will confirm eligibility.

5. What animals qualify for the program?

Eligible animals are dairy and beef animals over the age of 30 months and were accepted for payment under the National BSE Surveillance Program.

6. What documentation is required to receive a payment under the program?

Producers must complete a short application form and provide a copy of the CFIA cheque stub indicating participation in the National BSE Surveillance program.



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7. How is the program funded, managed, and administered?

The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands funds the multi year program. It is administered by the British Columbia Agriculture Council under the direction of a committee of beef and dairy producers and government representatives. Program policy as outlined is for the 2005 program. The advisory committee will meet following this year's program and will determine policy for the 2007 program.

8. How many samples will be accepted in 2006 and why are there maximums for the numbers of dairy and beef cattle which qualify for the program?

The program will fund 2100 animals in the 2006 calendar year. The management committee has determined the program will pay for 525 dairy animals and 1575 beef animals. The respective dairy and beef numbers represents the percentage of the total cattle herd in British Columbia and meets the regional distribution requirements established by CFIA. Policy will be reviewed for 2007.

9. What is the deadline for applying to the program?

The deadline for application is January 31, 2007. The program will accept any samples taken in the calendar year 2006. Payments will be on a first come first served basis based on the date the application is received by the administration.

10. Where can I find more information on the National BSE Surveillance program?

More information is available at: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/animal/heasan/disemala/bseesb/