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## USDA Quarantines 2 Calves Of BSE-Infected Cow

**DOW JONES NEWSWIRES**

WASHINGTON (AP)--U.S. officials have decided to quarantine two calves of the cow that was found to have mad cow disease. But they say the chances of the ailment being passed down from a cow to her calves is slim.

One calf is at the same dairy near Mabton, Wash., that was the final home of the stricken Holstein cow, said Dr. Ronald DeHaven, the Agriculture Department's chief veterinarian. The other calf is at a bull calf feeding operation in Sunnyside, Wash., DeHaven said.

"The reason for concern with these calves is that even though it is an unlikely means of spreading the disease, there is the potential that the infected cow could pass the disease onto its calves," he said.


DeHaven said the emphasis of the widening investigation is on finding the birth herd of the slaughtered cow, since it likely was infected from eating contaminated feed.

Sunnyside is about eight miles north of Mabton.

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DeHaven said tracing the source of the infected cow could take days or weeks, noting that it took Canadian officials several weeks to located the birth herd of a diseased cow earlier this year.

"If we're lucky, we could know something in a matter of a day or two," he said.

Confirmation that a Holstein cow in Washington state had the deadly disease came Thursday from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge, England. U.K. researchers agreed with the reading of U.S. tests on the stricken cow.

Those tests led U.S. officials to preliminarily conclude that the animal had the brain-wasting disease.

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