



December 27, 2003 5:21 p.m. EST

## USDA: Quarantined Herd Of 400 Calves To Likely Be Killed

### DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

WASHINGTON (AP)--A quarantined herd of 400 calves, including an offspring of first U.S. cow with mad cow disease likely will be killed, the U.S. Agriculture Department said Saturday. The herd was at a farm in Sunnyside, Washington, which officials refused to name.

Saturday, investigators said they tentatively traced the first U.S. cow with mad cow disease to Canada.

Dr. Ron DeHaven, the Agriculture Department's chief veterinarian, said Saturday that Canadian officials provided records indicating the sick Holstein was in a herd of 74 cattle shipped from Alberta, Canada, into this country in August 2001 at Eastport, Idaho.

"These animals were all dairy cattle and entered the U.S. only about two or two-and-a-half years ago, so most of them are still likely alive," DeHaven said.

The sick cow's presence in that herd doesn't mean all 74 animals are infected, DeHaven said. Investigators will probably find where the other 73 animals are within a matter of days, he said. Finding them will help investigators determine if any other animals are sick and need to be tested.

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But a top Canadian official said it is too early to say whether the cow came from Canada.

"It would be premature to draw such conclusions at this time," Dr. Brian Evans, chief veterinary officer of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, told reporters in Ottawa late Saturday.

"What we're dealing with at this point in time is not full-bodied information," he said. "We want to be thorough, we want to be accurate...that's what the U.S. expects of us and that's what we expect of them."

In May, Canada found a lone cow with the disease in Alberta but hasn't been able to determine the source of infection.

If U.S. and Canadian officials confirm that the sick cow in Washington state came from Canada, it might save the export market for the U.S. beef industry because the U.S. could keep its disease-free status and continue trade.

Federal officials announced Tuesday that tests indicated the cow, which ended up at a Washington farm in October 2001, had mad cow, a brain-wasting illness. An international laboratory in the U.K. confirmed it Thursday.

Julie Quick, a department spokeswoman, said Saturday that officials are awaiting a recommendation from USDA scientists on whether to kill the calves at Sunnyside. But that seems likely because investigators can't tell which calf was from the sick cow.

"Since the calf was not tagged, all bull calves at the Sunnyside premises under 30 days of age will likely be depopulated," the department said.

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[http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,BT\\_CO\\_20031227\\_000223,00.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,BT_CO_20031227_000223,00.html)

*Updated December 27, 2003 5:21 p.m.*

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