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Edmonton Plant Manager: Report Of BSE Link Premature -CP

DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

NEW YORK -- The manager of an Edmonton rendering plant says published reports about a possible link between his facility and two cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, are premature and don't make sense, the Canadian Press reported Wednesday.

"They haven't even decided if it's a Canadian cow or not and I think that was a little premature to have that in the paper today," said Keith Kalbfleisch of Northern Alberta Processing, CP reported.

The Edmonton Journal reported Wednesday that Canadian food safety investigators have found a tentative link between Northern Alberta Processing and North America's two cases of mad cow disease, CP stated.

The newspaper said the Edmonton plant may have provided contaminated materials to mills that mixed feed for both the Alberta farm at the center of the U.S. mad cow investigation, and the Saskatchewan birthplace of last May's diseased animal, according to the CP report.

But Kalbfleisch says that seems unlikely, CP reported.

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"I find it hard to be likely because you have to have a case of BSE to infect the cow in the first place, so if you believe this story, we must have had BSE back in 1997. You have to have something infected in order to have infected material," he said, according to the CP report.

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