



ARIZONA BEEF COUNCIL

“Beef Promotion, Education and Research”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Announcement of BSE in California Dairy Cow

PHOENIX, AZ, April 24, 2012 – The Arizona Beef Council issued the following statement regarding the [United States Department of Agriculture's](#) (USDA) confirmation of an “atypical” case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy cow in central California.

“Arizona’s consumers can rest assured that the interlocking series of safeguards to protect from the possibility of BSE entering the food supply are working. The new case of BSE that surfaced in a dairy cow in California proves once again that our vigilance has paid off.”

The animal was not bound for the nation's food supply and posed no danger, the Agriculture department said Tuesday. John Clifford, the department's chief veterinary officer, said the cow from central California did not enter the human food chain and that U.S. meat and dairy supplies are safe. It is the fourth such cow discovered in the United States since the government began inspecting for the disease to keep the food supply safe.

“The top three priorities for Arizona’s beef producing families are: Consumers, Animal Care and Conservation. Healthy cattle are very important to our safe food supply. Over the past twenty years beef producing families have invested their treasure and resources to assure that the safeguards and hurdles necessary for the safest food supply in the world are the very best.” See video about Arizona’s beef producing families [here](#).

“BSE is not contagious and USDA tests approximately 40,000 high-risk cattle per year. BSE as a disease is fast approaching eradication worldwide. According to USDA, there were only 29 cases of BSE worldwide in 2011, which is a 99 percent reduction since the peak in 1992 of more than 37,000 cases.”

“Arizona’s beef producing families raise enough beef to feed nearly 7.5 million beef consumers. Arizona raises nearly 1 million head of cattle and our beef community contributes nearly \$4 billion of economic activity in our state. We raise beef all across our state, in all 15 counties, and every community is impacted in some way by Arizona’s beef production.”

For more information you can visit www.bseinfo.org or contact Lauren Scheller at lscheller@arizonabeef.org or 602 421-6014.

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