



Media Statement

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**BSE Case Poses No Human Health Risk
Central Valley Incident Shows Detection System Is Working**

SACRAMENTO, April 24, 2012 – Despite the confirmation of an isolated case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy cow in California's Central Valley, beef producers stand firm on the fact that U.S. beef continues to be the safest in the world.

In a statement released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture today, USDA Chief Veterinary officer John Clifford said the cow was detected at a rendering facility and that it was never presented for slaughter for human consumption so it never presented a risk to human health or our food supply. In addition to presenting no risk to human health, the case will not impact the nation's World Organization for Animal Health's BSE status classification.

Tom Talbot, DVM, a California beef producer and chairman of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Cattle Health and Well Being Committee noted that the BSE safeguards are working and reiterated Clifford's message saying that this is not a human health risk.

"It is important to note that this particular cow died at the farm and was sent to a rendering facility where she was tested as a precaution and as part of the BSE detection system," Talbot explained.

"Consumers should rest assured that U.S. beef is completely safe to consume and beef producers remain committed to producing safe, healthy beef for consumers," Talbot says. "Because this incident was detected prior to slaughter, consumers can be confident that the system set in place to prevent diseased animals from entering the food chain is working as it was designed to."

The incident is the forth in the U.S. since 2003. To see the USDA statement in its entirety and to learn more about BSE, visit www.usda.gov/bse.

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Founded in 1917, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) represents California's \$1.78 billion beef cattle industry on legislative and regulatory affairs and remains the number one voice for the industry today. CCA is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which represents America's cattle farmers and ranchers.