

## Animal Protein Feeding Information for Dairy and Livestock Producers FDA Publishes Final Rule



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has published the final rule prohibiting the use of certain animal proteins in ruminant rations. This rule was published in the June 5th issue of the Federal Register. The rule is designed to minimize the risk of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) in ruminants. In the U.S. no cases of BSE have been documented. This rule is a proactive step to enhance consumer confidence relative to safety in the food supply system.

This rule will have an impact on dairy and livestock producers. One impact is that some animal protein feeds will no longer be available for use in ruminant rations. A second impact is the record keeping requirements if any animal protein sources are used in ruminant rations.

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**...prohibited animal proteins *cannot* be fed after October 3, 1997.**

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The key points of this rule are:

- The effective date is August 4, 1997. Existing supplies of feeds containing prohibited animal proteins can be used until the supply runs out. However, prohibited animal proteins *cannot* be fed after October 3, 1997.
- There are 2 classes of animal proteins derived from ruminants under this rule.

**Prohibited** - this includes mainly meat meal and meat and bone meal.

**Non-prohibited** - Includes animal proteins such as milk and milk proteins, gelatin, blood and blood products, pure swine or horse protein.

- Proteins derived from poultry, marine or vegetable sources are also excluded and *can* be used in ruminant rations.
- Tallow or fat is not considered an animal protein and thus is not covered by this rule.
- If a feed contains any prohibited animal protein source, it will carry the statement:  
**"Do not feed to cattle or other ruminants."**
- If the feed tag or label indicates animal protein products and does not have the above statement, then it is legal to use this feed in ruminant rations.
- All farms feeding any animal proteins are required to maintain records for a period of one (1) year. Other segments of the industry, including renderers, protein blenders and feed companies, are also required to keep records.

What does this mean for your farm? The answer will depend on the ingredients used in your feeding program. The following information can be used as a guide;

- A. If *no* animal protein sources are used on your farm, this rule will have *no* impact. You will not be required to maintain records as described below.
- B. If you use **any** of the "non-prohibited" animal protein sources, you will need to keep records as follows:

- Maintain copies of all invoices for all feeds that contain any animal proteins. It appears that this includes milk replacers and calf starters.
- Maintain copies of any labels or tags for feeds received which contain any animal protein products.
- The invoice for bulk deliveries should be retained.
- If the only information on bulk shipment is a placard, save the placard.
- If the feed is delivered in bags or other containers, the label should be removed and retained. Only 1 label or tag from each shipment is needed.
- If the label cannot be removed, save a representative bag or a transposed copy of the label.
- Legible copies of invoices and labels must be available for inspection or copying by FDA.

**Important:** These records must be maintained for 1 year from receipt of the product.

These requirements apply to each delivery.

**T**hese record keeping requirements will require some effort on your part if you use *any* commercial feeds containing animal protein products. There are a number of feed ingredients and blended products on the market which contain “nonprohibited” animal proteins that are legal to feed. These may contain poultry, swine, fish or blood proteins. If you do use these, then you will need to keep records as outlined above. Your feed supplier should provide you with information on the animal protein sources (if any) contained in their feeds. If the following statement is not on the tag, “**Do not feed to cattle or other ruminants.**”, then the feed can be used in your ration.

Source: Dr. L. E. Chase, Department of Animal Science, Cornell University,  
Animal Protein Feeding Information for Dairy and Livestock Producers,  
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