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IS THE AMERICAN BEEF SUPPLY SAFE?

New York, NY – Paraview Pocket Books, June 30, 2005: The admission on June 24, 2005 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) of a second confirmed case of mad cow disease in the United States highlights the inadequacy of the department's testing procedures.

In spite of pressure from both national and international animal experts, the USDA failed to immediately conduct a more accurate Mad Cow test in November 2004. Secondly, the USDA failed to detect a positive result with their “gold standard” immunohistochemistry test when subsequently a British lab using the same test scored a positive result.

These failures have called into question the competency of the USDA in testing the more than 300,000 cattle for the fatal disease thus far. Based on the small number of positives from these 300,000 animals, the USDA claims the American beef supply is safe.

If information on the Texas-based cow fell through the cracks, how many other animals have the USDA failed to detect?

International experts in mad cow disease have voiced extreme skepticism over the low number of positive mad cow discoveries in the United States, citing the Canadians who have conducted only one tenth the number — 30,000 — of tests as the USDA, and have already found *three positive cases*.

Colm A. Kelleher, Ph.D., noted molecular biochemist and author of the recently released book **BRAIN TRUST: The Hidden Connection Between Mad Cow and Misdiagnosed Alzheimer's Disease** has made the following observations.

CONSIDER THIS...

- On June 24, 2005, the USDA announced a second case of mad cow disease in the United States.
- On the same day, an Associated Press report quoted **Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns**: *“Johanns, former governor beef-producing Nebraska, said that there was no health risk and that he intended ‘to enjoy a good steak.’”*
- A Yale University study showed that approximately 5% of Alzheimer's Disease patients are incorrectly diagnosed. The patients actually had died of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD). One variant of CJD is caused by eating the beef from mad cows.
- Deaths from Alzheimer's Disease have increased by more than 9000% in North America. In 1979, only 653 people died from Alzheimer's Disease – that number jumped to 60,000 by 2004.
- CJD is not a mandatory reportable disease in about half the states in the United States. Therefore, all estimates of numbers of CJD cases in the U.S. are probably wrong.

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- Infectious agents in mad cow disease, CJD and other wildlife brain wasting diseases are called “prions” and are nearly indestructible.
- A survey of pathologists in California in September 2004 showed that more than 70% were reluctant to conduct autopsies on CJD patients, fearing contamination of their instruments and facilities.
- **Dr. Murray Waldman**, Toronto’s chief coroner, has alleged that many funeral homes do not embalm patients who have died from CJD, fearing that their facilities will become contaminated with deadly prions.
- Prions can be transmitted in the blood supply. In Europe, people have died after receiving blood from prion-infected donors.
- **Veterinarian Dr. Richard Marsh** presented strong scientific evidence that mad cow disease was already present in United States cattle in the 1980s. *His data were ignored.*
- In spite of assurances from the USDA that, since 1997, cows are no longer fed to cows in the U.S., several loopholes remain. It is still acceptable to feed cow blood to cows. Deceased cows can also be fed to chickens and chicken litter is then fed back to cows.
- Several clusters of CJD have been reported in the United States in the past decade. **The Center for Disease Control (CDC)** has dismissed all of them as statistical flukes.
- An epidemic of chronic wasting disease, also called mad deer and mad elk disease, is currently spreading through the United States wildlife. Since 2003, the disease has jumped from its center in Colorado to New Mexico, Illinois, Utah and Wisconsin. In 2005, it had reached New York State.
- Although the CDC said the deaths of the hunters was not conclusively linked to eating contaminated venison, in 2002 a number of reports of young hunters dying of brain-wasting disease surfaced in the scientific literature.
- Another unanswered question is: Can prion disease jump species from deer and elk to cattle?

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Colm A. Kelleher, Ph.D., is a biochemist with a 15-year research career in cell and molecular biology. Following his Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Dublin, Trinity College in 1983, Kelleher worked at the Ontario Cancer Institute, the Terry Fox Cancer Research Laboratory, and the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine. Dr. Kelleher is currently a senior research scientist in the biotechnology sector. **He is currently available for interviews and media inquiries.**

BRAIN TRUST: The Hidden Connection Between Mad Cow and Misdiagnosed Alzheimer’s Disease

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