

## December News Reel... [...newsroom](#)

December 3, 2001

### Harvard Study Shows Very Low Risk of BSE in the US [news](#) <<<

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a landmark study by Harvard University that shows the risk of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) occurring in the United States is extremely low. The report showed that early protection systems put into place by the USDA and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have been largely responsible for keeping BSE out of the U.S. and would prevent it from spreading if it ever did enter the country. Even so, officials outlined a series of actions to be taken that would continue strengthening programs to reduce that risk even further. The risk assessment was commissioned by USDA and conducted by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis. It evaluates the ways BSE could spread if it were to ever enter the United States. The report's purpose is to give agencies a scientific analysis to evaluate preventative measures already in place and identify additional actions that should be taken to minimize the risk of BSE. "The study released clearly shows that the years of early actions taken by the federal government to safeguard consumers have helped keep BSE from entering the United States," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "Even if BSE were to ever be introduced, it would be contained according to the study. However, we cannot let down our guard or reduce our vigilance. We must continue to strengthen these critical programs and today we are announcing a series of actions to bolster our protection systems." "Based on three years of thorough study, we are firmly confident that BSE will not become an animal or public health problem in America," said Dr. George Gray, deputy director of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis and director of the project. In response to the report, Veneman announced a series of actions the USDA would take, in cooperation with HHS, to strengthen its BSE prevention programs and maintain the government's vigilance against the disease. First, USDA will have the risk assessment peer reviewed by a team of outside experts to ensure its scientific integrity.

Second, the USDA will more than double the number of BSE tests it will conduct this fiscal year, with over 12,500 cattle samples targeted in 2002 -- up from 5,000 during 2001.

Third, USDA will publish a policy options paper outlining additional regulatory actions that may be taken to reduce the potential risk of exposure and ensure potential infectious materials remain out of the U.S food supply. To ensure its decisions are science-based, options will be tested using the computer model developed through the risk assessment to determine the potential impact they would have on animal and public health. The options to be considered will include: prohibiting the use of brain and spinal cord from specified categories of animals in human food; prohibiting the use of central nervous system tissue in boneless beef products, including meat from advanced meat recovery (AMR) systems; and prohibiting the use of vertebral column from certain categories of cattle, including downed animals, in the production of meat from advanced meat recovery systems. USDA will invite public comment on the options and then proceed with appropriate regulatory actions.

Fourth, USDA will issue a proposed rule to prohibit the use of certain stunning devices used to immobilize cattle during slaughter. Fifth, USDA will publish an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to consider additional regulatory options for the disposal of dead stock on farms and ranches. Such cattle are considered an important potential pathway for the spread of BSE in the animal chain.

"We found that even if BSE were ever introduced, it would not become established," said Gray. "With the government programs already in place, even accounting for imperfect compliance, the disease in the cattle herd would quickly die out, and the potential for people to be exposed to infected cattle parts that could transmit the disease is very low." BSE has never been detected in U.S. cattle, nor has there been a case of the human form of the disease, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD), detected in the United States. Since 1989, USDA has banned the import of live ruminants, such as cattle, sheep and goats, and most ruminant products from the United Kingdom and other countries having BSE. The ban was extended to Europe in 1997. To stop the way the disease is thought to spread, HHS prohibited the use of most mammalian protein in the manufacture of animal feed intended for cows and other ruminants. Should a case of BSE ever be detected in this country, an emergency response plan has been developed to immediately control suspect animals and prevent them from entering the food supply. This summer, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson announced an action plan outlining new steps to improve scientific understanding of BSE that incorporates a comprehensive approach to further strengthen surveillance, increase research resources and expand existing inspection efforts.

BSE is a chronic, degenerative neurological disorder of cattle that belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. Also included in that family of illnesses is vCJD, which is believed to be caused by eating neural tissue, such as brain and spinal cord, from BSE-affected cattle.

A complete copy of the Harvard Report can be obtained from the USDA's official website at: <http://www.usda.gov/>

For more information about BSE and the many efforts being taken to prevent its entry and spread into the United States.

Visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/>

### AFIA Biosecurity Guide [news](#) <<< ^^^^

American Feed Industry Association has published a new Guide to Biosecurity Awareness. The Guide was developed by an industry task force, chaired by Mike Foster, ADM Alliance Nutrition, and produced with the participation of the Animal Health Institute, the Center for Veterinary Medicine/Food and Drug Administration and the National Renderers Association.

If you would like a pdf of the guide contact AFIA at:

[afia@afia.org](mailto:afia@afia.org)

Feel free to distribute this Guide to your employees and customers.

### Australian Wheat Board Focuses on Asia [news](#) <<< ^^^^

Australia's wheat exporting monopoly AWB Ltd plans to expand its Asian marketing and sales network to better capitalise on opportunities in the region. The new network would have Hong Kong as its central base, while two new Asia offices in Singapore and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam would be opened. "This is part of a plan to ramp-up the level of service AWB provides to our Asian-based customers, and in turn, create more opportunity and value from markets in the region," AWB chief executive Andrew Lindberg said.

### Extru-Tech New Maxxim™ Series Extrusion Systems. [news](#) <<< ^^^^

Extru-Tech, Inc. announces the introduction of the all new Maxxim™ Series Extrusion Systems. The new line of enhanced single screw cooking extruders are capable of 20 to 30% production rate increases over previous models with the same barrel diameter. Extru-Tech's Inline drive system has been re-engineered to handle up to 600 hp compared to 350 on previous models. In addition, many ongoing improvements have been made to the barrel design, including changes to the screw profiles and the ribbing design in the sleeves. Other improvements include a screw support assembly that eliminates metal to metal wear. This assembly also allows for thermal expansion, which occurs as the screws are heated up to operating temperature.

Other features and benefits include:

- \* Dramatically increased throughput capacity
- \* Higher operational speeds
- \* Larger drive motor
- \* Improvements to barrel design
- \* Improved profiles on screws
- \* Changes to the sleeves, continuous flight
- \* Barrel support with thermal expansion assembly
- \* Improved die design
- \* Replaceable die faces for lower operational costs
- \* Wear ring for improved life span



[click for larger view](#)

Extru-Tech, Inc. also manufactures other components used in the extrusion cooling process, including dryers, coolers, coating equipment, conveying equipment, automated controls, and replacement parts for many different brands of extruders.

For more information, visit: [www.extru-techinc.com/Maxxim.htm](http://www.extru-techinc.com/Maxxim.htm)

Or Email Bill Husby at: [billh@extru-techinc.com](mailto:billh@extru-techinc.com)

**New Marine Aquarium Council Certification** [news](#) <<<    ^^^^

The Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) has launched a new certification system that aims to protect coral reefs and ensure the quality of organisms in the marine aquarium trade. MAC challenged aquarium hobbyists and industry operators, public aquariums, conservation organizations and government agencies to support the system they all helped to create.

The MAC certification tool meets internationally accepted environmental and quality standards and allows consumers to easily identify marine aquarium organisms that were collected in a sustainable way and handled to ensure optimal health, said Dr. Bruce Bunting, a vice president of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and a MAC board member. He presented his statements during a keynote speech at the 2nd International Marine Ornamentals Conference in Orlando, Fla.

With the new certification system, consumers will be able to identify certified facilities and organisms by looking for the MAC certification label on store windows and retail aquarium tanks. The industry will be able to locate MAC certified suppliers and facility operators on the MAC web site at: <http://www.aquariumcouncil.org/>

The label was unveiled at the conference and depicts a fish and a coral within an oval shape encircled by the words "Marine Aquarium Council Certified Organisms."

With one million marine aquarium hobbyists, the United States accounts for an estimated 60 percent of the worldwide demand for ornamental fish. Another major importer is Western Europe. Americans and Europeans buy a combined \$200 million worth of marine aquarium organisms annually, the vast majority of them collected from reefs off Indonesia and the Philippines.

Collecting also takes place offshore in Hawaii, Florida, the Caribbean and Red Sea countries, Sri Lanka, East Africa, the Maldives and other Pacific island countries. In many of these areas, rural villagers with limited economic opportunities depend on selling aquarium specimens, which bring a much higher profit than other types of reef uses. Aquarium fish sell for \$248 per pound compared to food fish at \$3 per pound. Likewise, live coral is worth \$3.50 per pound, while crushed coral for lime sells for 3 cents per pound. Collectors, therefore, have strong financial incentives to ensure that stocks of marine aquarium organisms and their environments remain healthy.

Some industry operators currently use destructive collecting methods, resulting in unnecessary and often irreversible environmental damage to coral reefs. In addition, poor handling practices can contribute to marine fish deaths, incurring financial losses on marine ornamental retailers and hobbyists who purchase the fish.

Already about 45 percent of the U.S. importers have made a commitment to become MAC certified. The Indonesia Coral, Shell and Ornamental Fish Association and the Philippines Tropical Fish Export Association have agreed to promote MAC certification among its members. Additionally, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association also strongly supports MAC certification. MAC is an international, multi-stakeholder, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization. It brings together conservation organizations, the aquarium industry, public aquariums, hobbyist groups and government agencies to ensure the marine aquarium trade is responsible and sustainable.

More information about MAC and marine ornamental certification can be found by visiting MAC's web site at: <http://www.aquariumcouncil.org/>

**Milk Replacers Blamed for BSE in Japan and Denmark** [news](#) <<<    ^^^^

Denmark's seventh case of BSE which is in a cow that was only 3.5 years old, supports the Danish food authorities' theory that the source of the infection could be contaminated animal fats in German calf milk replacers since it was raised after a MBM ban was imposed, according to a report in a Danish newspaper.

In the first six cases of BSE the infected cows had eaten the German milk replacer. The latest farm affected has also received supplies of the German milk replacer but it is uncertain whether the seventh cow also consumed it. Milk replacers are also being blamed for Japan's second case of BSE in a cow which now looks as though it was fed with the same products as were fed to the first cow that tested positive to the disease. The milk replacer has been traced to a Tokyo-based feed manufacturer, while the starter feed was manufactured by several plants of a major Hokkaido company.

**False Reporting Throws Doubt on FAO Fisheries Forecasts** [news](#) <<<    ^^^^

The veracity of FAO's figures and its voluntary reporting system have been thrown into question by a new study by scientists at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Overreporting by China for over a decade has presented a completely false picture of global fish catch, says the report. In contrast to the 700 million pounds a year increase that FAO has been reporting, catches have actually been declining by 800 million pounds.

FAO's statistics, which had never before been subjected to independent analysis, rely on numbers provided by member countries, even if it is doubtful that these correspond to reality, say authors Reg Watson and Daniel Pauly.

### **EU Dioxin Levels Set for Feed and Food** <<< ^^^^

[View Article](#)

### **AquaVision 2002 - Business Challenges in Modern Aquaculture** news <<< ^^^^

With a 253% increase in total production of farmed Atlantic salmon since 1990, from 225,642 tonnes to 797,560 tonnes in 1999, modern aquaculture has and will continue to underline its increasing importance as a source of high quality food, employment and revenue in many countries and communities around the globe.

For those involved in the aquaculture industry, however, no matter where on the globe they may be situated, all have similar concerns for the future development of the modern aquaculture industry. There is a perceived urgency for the need to work together with all stakeholders in the industry to solve the "Business challenges in modern Aquaculture".

The AquaVision 2002 Conference will focus on these very issues during its 4th three day conference being held next year from 11-13 June 2002, in Stavanger, Norway.

The conference will have five main forums centered around the main issues of:

1. The aquaculture value chain
2. Consumer perception
3. Governmental frameworks
4. Innovation through knowledge management
5. Creating confidence in the future for aquaculture

A more detailed introduction to these five forums is available on the AquaVision web site at: [www.aquavision.nu/](http://www.aquavision.nu/)

Building on the success of the 3rd AquaVision conference held in May 2000, which was attended by more than 450 participants from 28 countries, AquaVision 2002 now incorporates the successful Salmon Summit, organised by FAO EASTFISH, as part of AquaVision 2002. This doubles the reason to participate in the event.

AquaVision 2002 remains the only global aquaculture business forum. It is dedicated to future challenges and to establishing a unique meeting place bringing together decisions makers, politicians, farmers, processors, retailers, media etc. for an intensive period of international networking. The conference is being organised by Nutreco Aquaculture in co-operation with FAO EASTFISH (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation), EUROFISH Magazine, BASF - a leading company in feed additives for sustainable salmon production - and Fish Farming International magazine.

For further details on the conference plus registration details and hotel accommodation is available at: [www.aquavision.nu/](http://www.aquavision.nu/)

Alternatively contact: Nutreco Aquaculture Communications  
E-mail: [info@aquavision.nu](mailto:info@aquavision.nu)

### **Aquaculture Will Make Greater Contribution to Food Security, FAO** news <<< ^^^^

Over the next two decades, aquaculture will contribute more to the global food fish supplies and will help further reducing global poverty and food insecurity, according to "Aquaculture in the Third Millennium" a new publication released today by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Aquaculture's contribution toward global fisheries landings continues to grow (31.3% in 1999) and it continues to dominate all other animal food producing sectors. Total aquaculture production in 1999 was about 42.77 million metric tons, valued at 53.56 US billion dollars.

Since the FAO Technical Conference on Aquaculture, (Kyoto, 1976), aquaculture has gone through major changes, ranging from small-scale homestead-level activities to large-scale commercial farming.

Over the past three decades the sector has expanded, diversified, intensified and advanced technologically and, as a result, its contribution to aquatic food production has also increased significantly. A large proportion of global production comes from small-scale producers in developing countries and Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs). It significantly contributes to food security, poverty alleviation and social well-being in many countries. The contributions of aquaculture to trade, both local and international, have also increased over recent decades, and its share in the generation of income and employment for national economic development has also increased globally.

"Aquaculture in the Third Millennium" is the result of the Conference on Aquaculture held last February in Bangkok - jointly organised by FAO, Network of Aquaculture Centre in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and the Government of Thailand - and it represents the most comprehensive and authoritative review of the status of aquaculture development in the world assembled to date. It clearly reflects increased recognition that sustainable use of aquatic resources can only be achieved through vigorous and combined efforts by all sectors involved: farmer cooperatives and agencies, regulators, policy makers and planners, scientists, NGOs and other aquatic resource users.

FAO has long recognized the importance of aquaculture to achieve world food security and assisted governments and people who depend on aquaculture for their livelihoods, to achieve the social, economic and environmental sustainability goals embodied in the Bangkok Declaration and Strategy. "Aquaculture in the Third Millennium" confirms FAO's optimism that these goals are realistic and attainable, especially with the new wave of international collaboration which clearly transpired at the last Conference on Aquaculture.

Aquaculture in the Third Millennium is available on FAO's website:  
[www.fao.org/fi/meetings/aq2000/tech\\_proc/third\\_mill.asp](http://www.fao.org/fi/meetings/aq2000/tech_proc/third_mill.asp)

### **BSE Reaches Finland** news <<< ^^^^

Finland has its first case of BSE, although tissue samples from the six-year-old animal sent to Britain for analysis have proved inconclusive. The affected farm in northern Finland has not used MBM in animal feed for more than 20 years. Agriculture Minister Kalevi Hemila told a news conference that Finland would now test all slaughtered cattle over 30 months. A spokeswoman for the European Commission said the finding of BSE in Finland should not give rise to panic.

December 17, 2001

### **GMOs: UT Ag Policy Center Expert Says "The Customer is King"** <<< ^^^^

[View Article](#)**Finland Reports BSE Case** [news](#) <<< ^^^^

The Finnish National Veterinary and Food Research Institute has confirmed BSE in a six-year-old cow in northern Finland. In common with authorities in Japan and Denmark, Finnish authorities suspect calf milk replacements may be the source. Until now Finland had been one of only three European Union member countries, along with Sweden and Austria, to have no recorded cases of BSE.

**Nestlé Buys Ralston Purina** [news](#) <<< ^^^^

Nestlé S.A. has completed its acquisition of Ralston Purina Company. The new organization will be called "Nestlé Purina PetCare Company" and will be based in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

Under the terms of the transaction, Nestlé acquired all of the outstanding shares of Ralston Purina for US\$ 33.50 per share in cash. The transaction has an enterprise value of US\$ 10.3 billion (\$ 10.0 billion equity plus \$ 1.2 billion of net debt, minus \$ 0.9 billion of financial investments).

As part of the acquisition, Nestlé Purina PetCare has requested that all of the Ralston Purina publicly traded securities be delisted, including the Ralston Purina debt securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange which consist of the 9-1/4% Debentures due 2009, the 7-3/4% Debentures due 2015, the 9.30% Debentures due 2021, the 8-5/8% Debentures due 2022, the 8-1/8% Debentures due 2023 and the 7-7/8% Debentures due 2025. Nestlé Purina PetCare expects this request will be approved.

The North American headquarters for Nestlé Purina PetCare is located at Checkerboard Square in St. Louis, Missouri, where Ralston Purina Company was founded more than a century ago. Nestlé Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestlé S.A. – the world's largest food company.

December 31, 2001

**Japan Tightens Fishmeal Security** [news](#) <<< ^^^^

Japan's fishmeal suppliers are tightening up on quality standards and enforcement, in the wake of the BSE outbreak. The Japan Fish Meal Association has said it will urge fish meal manufacturers to tighten up their security practices to insure that MBM does not get into their feed products during manufacture or distribution. Feed manufacturers will be required to get a written statement from ingredient suppliers that non-fish products are excluded. The association has also said that it will investigate the ingredients used in its member's fishmeal products and is considering requiring them to provide quality guarantees. The association said it will also urge the nation's 20 or so non-member fishmeal manufacturers to improve standards.

"Adjusted" fishmeal, which includes MBM, was widely used in cattle feeds before the September ban on MBM in feed when the country's first case of BSE was discovered. A further two cases were discovered in November. The Japanese government's response to the outbreak has been widely criticized. As a result, Hideaki Kumazawa, vice minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and Takemi Nagamura, head of the ministry's Livestock Industry Department, which came under fire for failing to destroy an infected cow that subsequently was rendered and found its way back into animal feed, will resign in early January.

**Nutreco Nominated for Environmental Report Award** [news](#) <<< ^^^^

The social and environmental report of Nutreco has been nominated by the jury of the ACC Award 2000 for the European Environmental Reporting Award in the category "Best first time reporter". The winner will be announced in April 2002 during a ceremony in Copenhagen.

The Dutch jury said that as a 'first-time-reporter', it was striking that Nutreco was already focusing on a broad perspective of sustainable development. "The report already has an adult structure, whereby they have learned from the 'best practice' of existing reports. The report gives a good picture of the social involvement of the organisation. The report gives attention to the chain of sustainable food production. There are references to the web site for more information. It is notable that negative aspects are also considered."

The ACC Award is an independent, non-commercial prize, offered by the VMA (the Dutch association for environmental accountancy) together with Royal NIVRA (the Dutch institute of chartered accountants). The ACC Award has been offered since 1995. The aim is to improve the standards of environmental reports.

**All Europe Hit By BSE** [news](#) <<< ^^^^

Closely following the Austrian ministry of Agriculture's announcement that it has a confirmed case of BSE, Sweden, the last remaining BSE-free country in the European Union has a suspected case on a farm in the west of the country, in the Jaemtland district. The four year old dairy cow has been slaughtered. Meanwhile, Slovakia has reported a fifth case of BSE, three months after its first cases appeared and just weeks after neighboring Czech Republic discovered eastern Europe's first two cases.

**South Africa Biotech Approval** [news](#) <<< ^^^^

South African farmers have completed planting of the country's first commercial biotech food crop. Roundup Ready soybeans were approved earlier this year by South Africa's Executive Council for Genetically Modified Organisms, the body that reviews the country's applications for approval of biotech products.

"This decision is good news for South African growers who now have an opportunity to share in the economic and environmental benefits of Roundup Ready soybeans," said Kinyua Mbijjewe, Monsanto's spokesman for Africa. "We believe growers in South Africa will find the benefits of Roundup Ready soybeans are well worth their additional investment in this technology," he said. "Where they're grown commercially, Roundup Ready soybeans have demonstrated their ability to improve yields and, in turn, increase growers' incomes."

This is the fourth biotech crop to be commercialized in South Africa since 1998. Other approved crops include insect-protected maize used for animal feed, Roundup Ready cotton and Bollgard, Monsanto's insect-protected cotton. "This approval and planting in South Africa demonstrates that both farmers and government regulators recognize the benefits of biotechnology, which is why use of these technologies continues to expand throughout the world," said Robb Fraley, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer of Monsanto.

"This acceptance is driven by the overwhelming benefits of biotechnology, such as dramatic reduction in pesticide use."



South Africa traditionally imports soybeans to supplement domestic production and since 1999 has imported Roundup Ready soybeans from other countries where they are grown. The recent approval by the council allows Roundup Ready soybeans to be planted in South Africa. Growers recently planted approximately 7,000 hectares (17,500 acres) of Roundup Ready soybeans. According to a recent report by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA), there has been "a significant increase of up to 100,000 hectares of transgenic crops" in South Africa since 1998. The report is available on ISAAA's website at <http://www.isaaa.org>. Another biotech crop, Bollgard cotton, has been a particular advantage to growers in the Makhathini Flats region of South Africa, one of the poorer regions of the world, where bollworms traditionally have destroyed up to 60 percent of growers' harvests. Insect-protected cotton, enhanced through biotechnology to repel bollworms, significantly reduces pesticide use and increases yields.

"The success of Bollgard in Makhathini Flats is a good example of how biotechnology can help farmers in Africa and throughout the developing world improve the quantity and quality of crops they depend on for income and to feed their families and communities," said Mbijjewe.

Although South Africa is currently the only country in Africa that has approved commercial biotech crops, research and testing on similar products is being conducted throughout the continent and in other developing regions. For example, in 2001, the first field trials of virus resistant sweet potatoes were completed in Kenya, a milestone in a collaborative research project that Monsanto has been involved in for several years.

According to the ISAAA report, the proportion of transgenic crops grown in developing countries has increased consistently from 14 percent in 1997, to 16 percent in 1998, to 18 percent in 1999, and 24 percent in 2000. "Despite the ongoing debate on genetically modified crops, particularly in countries of the European Union, millions of large and small farmers in both industrial and developing countries continue to increase their plantings of GM crops because of the significant multiple benefits they offer," said Clive James, Chairman of the ISAAA Board of Directors, in ISAAA's latest report. In addition to its commercial products, Monsanto shares its knowledge and technologies on a non-commercial basis with public-sector partners to benefit subsistence farmers and the environment in Africa and throughout the world. This commitment is reflected in the New Monsanto Pledge, a series of commitments that describe the company's policies for products developed through biotechnology. "By sharing our resources, we hope to facilitate and encourage additional research that will lead to a wide variety of discoveries to enhance their food security and nutritional needs in developing countries," said Fraley. Some of these Monsanto projects include providing broad access to a working draft of the rice genome and participating in work to develop the virus-resistant sweet potatoes in Africa and papayas in South East Asia. In addition, the Monsanto Fund is supporting the St. Louis-based Donald Danforth Plant Science Center's efforts to develop a virus-resistant cassava, a staple crop in Africa.

Monsanto says its efforts complement a recent report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) that stressed the importance of agricultural biotechnology for developing countries. The Human Development Report 2001 also encouraged greater public investment in research and development to ensure that biotechnology meets the agricultural needs of the world's poor. According to the UNDP report, biotech crops "could significantly reduce malnutrition, which still affects more than 800 million people worldwide, and would be especially valuable for poor farmers working marginal lands in sub-Saharan Africa."

#### **Faster GMO Tests** [news](#) <<< ^^^^

Strategic Diagnostics has developed and commercialized a new, faster test for the detection of the Roundup Ready(R) herbicide tolerant trait in soybeans and the Cry9C StarLink insect resistant trait in corn.

These new rapid tests will provide grain handlers, terminals and elevators a much faster method to detect these genetic modifications in grain supplied to meet U.S., European and Asian regulations. Over 16 million SDI strip tests have been sold to seed producers, grain elevators, terminals and food processors since 1998, and the introduction of these new, faster tests is well-timed in light of the expected demand for GMO testing in 2002.

The Roundup Ready test will generally provide results in less than three minutes. The new test not only provides faster results and is easier to use, but like all SDI TraitCheck(TM) tests, it does not require refrigeration and is shelf stable. Another benefit of the test is that it can also be used to detect the Monsanto herbicide trait NK603 in corn, being more sensitive than any other NK603 test currently on the market. The test will detect only Monsanto's NK603 protein and not its GA21 variety.

SDI's new Cry9C test has also been enhanced to be faster. The new test now generally provides results in five minutes, is simple to use and does not require refrigeration. The test has been approved by the USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). Tests can be purchased directly from Aventis Crop Science or through SDI.

#### **USDA Declares ISA Emergency** [news](#) <<< ^^^^

Infectious salmon anemia (ISA) is a foreign animal disease of Atlantic salmon caused by an orthomyxovirus. While this virus appears to only cause disease in Atlantic salmon, both wild and farmed, sea run brown trout, rainbow trout, and other wild fish such as herring may act as carriers or reservoirs of the virus. Since its first isolation in Norway in 1984, it has also been found in Canada and Scotland. ISA may also be called hemorrhagic kidney syndrome (HKS) in Atlantic salmon.

The first case of ISA in the United States was confirmed on February 15, 2001. As of June 25, 2001, eight cases have been confirmed in Maine. Clinical signs of ISA generally appear within 2 to 4 weeks after infection and include lethargy, swelling and hemorrhaging of the kidneys and other organs, protruding eyes, pale gills, darkening of the posterior gut, and swelling of the spleen. Mortality is highly variable and can range from 3 percent to over 50 percent over one production cycle, depending on a number of factors.

Transmission occurs by direct contact, through parts from infected fish (mucus, blood, viscera, trimmings, feces), contact with equipment contaminated with parts from infected fish, people who handled infected fish, and sea lice. Salmon pens within 3 miles of infected farms or processing plants handling infected fish without adequate waste treatment have up to 13 times greater risk of becoming infected with ISA. The State of Maine has taken steps to prevent further spread of ISA; however, the State lacks sufficient funding and personnel to effectively control this disease, which poses a potentially serious threat to animal health and the U.S. economy. Therefore, State officials have asked the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assist with epidemiology, surveillance, and indemnification programs. The goal is to control and contain the disease through rapid detection and depopulation of salmon that have been infected with or exposed to ISA. "We believe the virus can be controlled and contained within high-risk zones through surveillance, vaccination, and best management practices. Control of ISA requires depopulation of all pens holding infected fish, but the risk of loss of stock without indemnification makes it less likely that farmers will report outbreaks, and currently, farmers are under no obligation to report the occurrence of fish disease to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the USDA. Indemnification is necessary to provide an incentive for farmers to report diseased fish and to continue testing.

Vaccination appears to be a potentially effective means of controlling ISA. If vaccines now being tested prove to be efficacious, restocking affected zones with vaccinated smolts could reduce the incidence and spread of ISA. APHIS could be instrumental in vaccine development and providing permits for vaccine distribution.

Successful control of ISA also requires extensive surveillance. Current surveillance in the high-risk zones of Maine's Cobscook and Passamaquoddy Bays has been limited to once per month because of that State's budgetary and personnel considerations. Elsewhere, surveillance has been limited to a quarterly basis. To control ISA, it is vital that all sites, both high- and low-risk, undergo monthly surveillance.

Canada has been seriously affected by ISA. Fish farmers in that country have lost \$70 million (in U.S. dollars) as a result of the virus, and Canada's Federal and Provincial governments have contributed over \$29.5 million (in U.S. dollars) to compensate salmon farmers. As a result of a comprehensive ISA program that includes indemnification, Canada has reduced the incidence of ISA from 18 infected sites in 1998 to 4 infected sites in 2001. In addition to posing a significant worldwide risk to the economic viability and sustainability of salmon aquaculture, ISA poses a specific threat to the United States. Salmon production in Maine exceeds 36.2 million pounds annually, with a value of \$101 million. Outbreaks of ISA in Maine have already cost that State's salmonid industry approximately \$11 million due to the depopulation of infected or exposed salmon. This loss is greater when capital expenditures such as labor costs and equipment are considered. These lost revenues have more significant effects. Resulting budgetary effects have compromised efforts by the State of Maine and by the salmonid industry to control ISA. Additionally, the devastating effects of the virus reach the economies of other States and have serious ramifications for international trade. For example, when ISA emerged in Maine, Chile and the European Union prohibited the importation of trout and salmon eggs from the States of Washington, Maine, and Idaho. The resulting trade loss is estimated at \$2 million for 2001.

Therefore, in order to address the ISA threat to the U.S. salmonid industry, APHIS has determined that additional funds are needed for an ISA control program. In addition to the payment of indemnity, these funds will be used for program activities such as depopulation and disposal, clean-up and disinfection, establishment of surveillance programs, epidemiology and diagnostic support, and training for producers and veterinarians. These activities will reduce the spread of ISA and should save the Federal Government and salmonid industry from having to deal with a more costly and widespread problem in the future. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, as amended (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency that threatens the livestock industry of this country and hereby authorize the transfer and use of such funds as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the United States Department of Agriculture to establish an ISA control program in the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This declaration of emergency shall become effective December 13, 2001.

Ann M. Veneman,  
Secretary of Agriculture.

**Comparative Study of Commercial Shrimp Feed Binders** <<< ^^^^

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