

The misconception propagated by the USDA, FDA, CDC, NIH and the Cattlemen's Association is that the United States has never had a cow with BSE (Mad Cow Disease) and no one has ever died from Variant CJD (vCJD) in the United States. When looking at the facts and statistics, these statements are extremely misleading and tell little of what is actually going on.

Sporadic CJD can also be caused by eating tainted beef

These organizations further hang their hats on the idea that 1 in a million people die worldwide every year from Sporadic CJD. They define Sporadic CJD as being just a normal mutation that occurs occasionally throughout the population and is not related to eating tainted beef. What they fail to tell everyone is that in 2002, the Institute of Neurology at the University College of London found cases of Sporadic (Classic) CJD in mice that ingested mad cow beef. It is only common sense that since there are over 20 strains of Scrapie, that there are going to be many strains of CJD related to eating meats tainted with TSE's.

BSE is here in the United States

Many great scientists believe we have BSE in the United States. Dr. Gibbs, who recently chaired the World Health Organization investigation into the disease says "Do I believe BSE is here in the U.S., of course I do," Gibbs made this admission at the University of Wisconsin symposium. With more than two decades of prion research behind him, Dr. Stanley Prusiner, the scientist that coined the term "prion" and received the Nobel prize for his work, agrees that Mad Cow Disease MUST be present in the US.

New Jersey CJD Cluster

There are many clusters of CJD in the United States. The one that I am most familiar with is the one in New Jersey related to people that ate at the Garden State Race Track in Cherry Hill. My mother worked at the race track. One of her employees, Carrie Mahan was a close personal friend of the family and she attended my wedding. In 2000, she died of CJD at the young age of 29. She ate at the race track everyday. Her doctors at the University of Penn diagnosed her with CJD, Case Western (the U.S. CJD Surveillance Unit under Dr. Gambetti) had trouble confirming it, and the Surveillance Unit in England told Carrie's brother that they thought it was the Variant strain because Carrie was only 29 when she died. At Carrie's age, she had a one in a 20 million chance of getting CJD. Here's a link to an article on Carrie, where Dr. Gonatas (University of Penn) states that he was convinced that Carrie died from CJD.

http://www.emergingworlds.com/ch_article.cfm?link=First_Mad_Cow_Death_in_US.hm

Brain slides from Carrie were also sent to Doctor Omar Bagasra. I spoke with him. He said Carrie did die from CJD, but he thought it was a new strain also related to eating tainted beef.

Then I was reading the paper in June 2003 and came across the obituary of Carol Olive (56) who died of CJD in May and also worked at the race track. I contacted Carol's family and they were shocked Carrie had also died of CJD. Carol also ate daily at the track. So 2 out of 100 administrative employees at the track died of CJD and these two people knew each other. So much for the 1 in a million statistic. Her autopsy was performed at Case Western by Dr. Gambetti. Last month he officially declared that it was CJD. He has since said it will take some time to determine what type it is. I'm not sure what the hold up is since he has had her body since day one. Here's the link to Carol's obituary: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/223-06042003-101394.html>

Since my mother ate with Carrie everyday at the track, I am concerned, so I decided to look into it further. I looked up CJD in the obituaries of a local on-line newspaper. I came across John Weber (83, Pennsauken resident) that died from CJD just a few months after Carrie's death. I thought there is no way he had a connection to the track. It was a pretty unpopular place and had to close down. Yet, when I asked his family if he had any connection with the Garden State Park, I was told he had a season pass to the park and ate there at least once a week. At this point my heart was in my throat and I welled up. Could this be true? My mother ate with Carrie everyday. I could only pray that this was a mistake. Three people eating regularly at the track and all dieing from CJD.

Per Joyce (a track employee), there were less than 1000 regulars that attended the track at least once a week like John Weber did. She gave me the name and number of a man that worked at the track with her that would have the exact figures. It would be so much easier to investigate if the track had not closed down a few years ago. I plan on following up with him. John Weber in the news: <http://broadcastpioneers.tripod.com/wip/jpweber.html>

I reported the connection in the three cases to the CDC, the NJ Department of Health, and Dr. Gambetti's office. Dr. Gambetti from Case Western had his manager call me to ask some questions about the three cases. I also received a call from the CDC (Ryan Maddox) looking into the cases. Ryan admitted that this was the first time in the U.S. that two people that knew each other (Carrie and Carol) have died from CJD.

Since then, I have found four other CJD victims that have also died from CJD who ate at the track at least once in the late 1980's or early 1990's.

Freedom of Information Requests

Now I read everything that I can about CJD. Back in June and July I even went as far as to request dozens of documents under the Freedom of Information Act from the CDC, FDA, and USDA. To date, I have only received one response.

One of my requests focused on how many people have been dieing from CJD. I want to find out if the numbers are going up. Of course, the CDC's figures will be off, since it is not a reportable disease in many states and even in those states that require reporting (such as NJ), many CJD cases are never actually reported to the states.

With the limited data that I have been privy to, it does look like the number of cases are going up. Between 1979 and 1996 (18 years), 1 person under 30 developed sporadic CJD in the US. Between 1997 and 2001, 5 people under 30 died of sporadic CJD (not counting Carrie). So it went from 1 case in 18 years to 6 cases in 5 years. To me, that's a significant increase.

The USDA in 1991 stated that "feeding of meat and bone meal to US dairy cattle became significant after 1987, and reached its highest level in 1989 and 1990". If a cow ate ruminant between 1987 and 1990 and then developed a TSE, it is likely that the cow would be slaughtered within two years. Cattle in the United States are generally slaughtered before they turn two. At a minimum, it generally takes 5 years for someone to develop symptoms, but it can take as long as 40 years. Therefore, if we are going to see a crisis develop in the United States like has occurred in England, Europe, and Japan, we would first expect to see a few cases begin to creep up between 1994 and 1997. The first person from our group at the track came down with CJD in 1997.

Another one of my requests is for all the CJD victims in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Without this information, it's very difficult for me to determine if there are victims from the Race Track Cluster that we don't know about.

The one response to a Freedom of Information Request that I did receive regards my request for all documents relating to when and how Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman was notified about the Canadian Mad Cow found in 2003. I asked for this information because I was told by a source that Ann was told about the Canadian Mad Cow 10 to 16 days before she announced it to the public and closed the borders to Canadian cattle. I was told that she waited so that the cattle in transit would be able to cross the border.

The response I received last week stated:

"Agency employees conducted a thorough search of its files and were not able to locate any written documentation. I have been informed by the program area that Secretary Ann Veneman was notified by telephone."

That is a ridiculous response since their own regulations require documentation of such things. I plan on appealing that response.

Additional Information

I've organized some of the most damaging evidence into the attached documents for ease of reading.

Attachment 1 (page 6) is a quick introduction to TSE's and some of the things known about them today.

Attachment 2 (page 9) is my TSE Timeline. It shows when the scientists knew what, how the lobbyists influenced the lax procedures regarding rendering, and all of the warnings that were ignored along the way. After you read this document, you are going to be shaking your head at why we are so far behind in protecting our citizens.

Attachment 3 (page 20) is the Cover-Up.

Attachment 4 (page 23) is “Why has our government and the cattle industry ignored the warnings?”

The information that I have included came from research, interviews, books, and articles. I haven't traced all of the information back to their source documents, but I plan on doing that soon.

The only prudent policy regarding BSE and CJD is a conservative policy. Yet, despite the fact that many scientists have acknowledged that a conservative policy is best, industry has won out. There is an inherent flaw in entrusting the safety of food to a government agency that is at the same time mandated to protect the agricultural industry.

My interest in CJD comes from when I connected the New Jersey Race Track CJD cases and the fact that my mother worked at the track and ate their daily with one of the victims. I have done extensive research on CJD and have written several articles on CJD.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance. I will let you know what comes from my appeal of that one Freedom of Information Request and the responses that I receive regarding the others.

Sincerely,

[Reader name withheld by request]

Attachment 1

A Quick Introduction to TSE's

TSE's

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) is a family of prion diseases that is characterized by spongy degeneration of the brain. When slides from the brains of animals with TSE's are viewed under a microscope, they often look like Swiss cheese. This group of similar, but significantly different, diseases infects many species of animals including humans.

A few of the TSE's

- cattle get Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) (aka Mad Cow Disease)
- sheep and goats get Scrapie
- elk and deer get Chronic Wasting Disease
- cats get Feline Spongiform Encephalopathy (FSE)
- humans get CJD (Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease) and Kuru (from eating other humans)

But many others species also get TSE's, including but not limited to minks, mice and monkeys.

TSE's can be passed from one species to another. Research has shown that cattle can get it from sheep, and humans can get it from eating cattle. Cattle have also been proven to give it to goats, mice, monkeys, pigs, cats, and mink.

CJD

CJD is 100% fatal. There is no cure and there is no treatment. One in a million people will come down with CJD. On average, CJD patients die 4-6 months after first showing symptoms. However, there have been cases where patients lived with the symptoms for more than two years. The disease can lay dormant for up to 40 years before symptoms appear.

There are four types of CJD recognized by the CDC: Iatrogenic, Inherited, Variant, and Sporadic.

1. Iatrogenic occurs during surgery when someone with CJD was operated on and then another person is operated on and gets CJD. CJD is near impossible to clean out of instruments.
2. Familial CJD occurs in families that carry a gene that mutates. This is extremely rare.
3. Variant CJD (also known as new-Variant CJD, or nvCJD or vCJD) comes from the ingestion of meats that have a TSE (such as eating a cow with BSE or a deer with Chronic Wasting Disease). To date, there has only been one confirmed case of

Variant CJD in the United States, and that victim traveled extensively and is presumed to have consumed the infected beef while overseas.

4. Sporadic CJD cases are listed as such when the scientists cannot figure out how someone contracted CJD. The majority of cases in the U.S. are listed as sporadic CJD. **However, the Institute of Neurology at the University College of London has found cases of Sporadic CJD in mice that were linked to eating tainted beef.** Here is the link to that article.

<http://12.42.224.167/HealthNews/reuters/NewsStory1129200224.htm>

Therefore, it is very likely that some of the cases listed as sporadic CJD in the U.S. were caused by eating tainted beef.

The initial symptoms of CJD are confusion, depression, insomnia, personality changes, strange physical sensations, problems with memory and sight. Later symptoms include dementia, involuntary jerking movements, and problems with speaking, seeing, and coordination. Because these symptoms can be attributed to other ailments such as Alzheimer's, Pick's Disease, Huntington's Disease, cerebral hematomas and vascular irregularities, the number of CJD cases is probably underreported.

Homozygotes versus Heterozygotes

Some people believe that only homozygotes (people with certain genes) get Variant CJD -- since only homozygotes in England have come down with the Variant strain to date. However, it could be that only certain strains of Variant CJD make heterozygotes sick. That has been found in some strains of TSE in mice, where some strains made homo and heterozygotes ill, while some other strains made only homozygotes ill. It is likely that the strain related to the race track cluster in New Jersey will infect both types. I believe Carrie's pathology was initially ignored by the CDC because she was a heterozygote. Many scientists believe it's a new strain.

It could also be possible that people with certain genes (heterozygotes) get the variant version of CJD that has been found in the United Kingdom later in life. From a report on BSE and CJD found in RJ Reynolds collection of documents, written by many, including Paul Brown (National Institute of Health) and Linda Detwiler (USDA) it stated that -- "However, it is also possible that (as in the analogous oral infection of kuru and in peripheral iatrogenic CJD infections) heterozygotes are comparatively resistant to disease and become ill after longer incubation periods than those of homozygotes."

Since there are so many strains of the TSE's and since some of the strains in other animals have been found in heterozygotes, it is likely that other strains of CJD will also infect heterozygotes.

Alzheimer's

A study conducted by Dr. Laura Manuelidis (Yale) in 1989 found that 13% of patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's actually have CJD. A similar study performed later at the

University of Pittsburgh found that 5% of those with Alzheimer's had CJD. Therefore, rather than the U.S. having 300 CJD victims a year, it's more likely to be in the tens of thousands.

Combining the facts reveals that we may already have a catastrophe in the works

BSE generally incubates in cattle for 3-8 years before they die. However, there have been 2 cows found with BSE in the world that were under 30 months old. Variant CJD in humans generally incubates for 5-40 years before humans die.

Most cattle in the United States are slaughtered before they are 24 months old. The problem is that we don't have any scientific tests to find out if a cow that is incubating the illness, but not yet showing symptoms, has BSE. Yet, we know that blood of animals not yet showing symptoms of TSE's (but have a TSE), when fed to other animals, have caused the other animals to develop TSE's. So even though an animal may not have symptoms, the eating of the animal by another, can give the TSE to the other animal.

"Last September, scientists presented strong evidence that BSE can be transmitted through blood transfusions, at least in sheep. Researchers at the [Institute of Animal Health](#) in Edinburgh, Scotland, infected a sheep with BSE via the oral route with brain from an infected cow. Before symptoms appeared, blood was transferred from this sheep into a healthy sheep. The healthy sheep then developed symptoms typical of scrapie." This report suggests that blood donated by symptom-free vCJD-infected human beings may represent a risk of spread of vCJD infection among the human population," Chris Bostock wrote in the *Lancet*" [356, 999 (2000)].

This means that cows that haven't developed symptoms but who are incubating BSE, can probably pass the disease onto others. This means that our young cows could give it to us (humans) even though they are too young to test positive for BSE.

Also, there are no pre-mortem tests for TSE's, so the science has yet to catch up and prove or disprove how extensive the BSE is within our cattle. Since CJD is 100% fatal, you would think the government and the cattle industry would be as careful as possible and take the necessary precautions with our food supply. If I were a cattle farmer and I saw what went on over in England and then in Europe and then in Japan, I would want to spend a little money and not feed the cows rendered animals rather than face the possibility of the huge losses that the entire industry faced in countries where the lies were finally exposed.

Attachment 2 The TSE Timeline

The United States has known of 20+ strains of scrapie in the United States for decades. But, decades ago there was no evidence that it could be transferred to any other animal, so no one worried.

1978/1979 -- Dr. Masuo Doi (a veterinarian with the Food Safety and Quality Service, USDA), studied a disorder in some young hogs that had arrived at Packing Plant in Albany, NY from several Midwestern States. The USDA's pathologist reported that the damage in the pig's brain was similar to the damage observed in the brains of sheep afflicted with scrapie. - In August 1996, US officials said they re-looked at the pigs and concluded that they weren't concerned because BSE experts in England looked at the slides of the affected pigs brains and said there was no problem. It later came out that the USDA never sent any slides to England. – Yet today, the pigs that we eat are fed rendered cows. That should not be allowed knowing all that we know today.

1985 -- Dr. Marsh (Chairman of Dept of Vet Science, University of Wisconsin – Madison) warned of a previously unrecognized TSE in U.S. cattle. He researched a group of mink that died from a TSE. He found out from the mink farmer that those mink had eaten downer cows. He then fed the mink to other cows. Those cows became downer cows. Those cows were then fed to other mink, and then they developed the mink TSE. This should have set off a red flag. This was before BSE was discovered in the cows in England. Yet, no one wanted to listen. Many scientists today believe that the TSE that already existed in the US cattle in 1985 was probably a different strain of the BSE than seen in the UK. Yet, the government and the cattle industry today say there are no TSE's in US cattle that have been tested. Just because there isn't a test for this strain doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Just last week in Japan, they found a new strain of BSE that didn't meet the same testing criteria of the UK's BSE. Then today, France announced their own unique strain of BSE. So hanging ones hat on one test rather than common sense is dumb.

1985 – The first reported cow with mad cow disease showed symptoms in England.

1985 – The link between human growth hormone and CJD came to light. Human Growth Hormone (HGH) was given worldwide to 30,000 people. The HGH was created from the pituitary glands that were harvested from 1.4 million cadavers. Assuming 1 case of CJD per 1 million people, most scientists agree that there might be 1 or 2 pituitary glands from CJD patients in that group of 1.4 million glands. But when they commingled all the glands, the people receiving the hormone went from having a 1 in a million chance of getting CJD to a 1 in 100 chance. The same thing happens with feed where only one cow had BSE, it exponentially increases the chance of it spreading. That's why rendering and huge ground beef manufacturing plants can exponentially make the crisis worse.

1986 – The brain from the cow with the symptoms of mad cow disease when looked under the microscope was said to look like scrapie.

1987 – the U.K. government released to the public information on BSE in the UK cattle.

1988- Ruminant meat and bone meal is banned from inclusion into cattle feed in the UK. So while the UK knew there was a connection between eating ruminant meat and bone meal back in 1988, in 1995, five million tons of processed slaughterhouse leftovers were sold for animal feed in the US. Finally after almost a decade after the ban took place in the UK, in 1997, we banned ruminant feeding to cattle. Of course, our version had many exceptions including pigs, horses, chickens, blood, etc... even though many scientists believe that these exceptions pose a risk. The U.S. is always ten steps behind with the blinders on.

1989 – The USDA quietly forms a committee to review the situation in the U.S. Dr. Richard Marsh (the doctor that found the connection with the minks and downer cows) joins half a dozen scientists at an April 24 meeting with Dr. Gerald Wells of the British Ministry of Agriculture. The group concludes that “it would be of great value to examine the activities of the rendering industry in the United States We do not know what the practices and regulations of the U.S. rendering industry are.” This early meeting is attended by the American Sheep Industry Association and an aide to Congressman Jim Leach (R-IA), considered friendly to the meat and rendering industries located in his state. Marsh’s warnings to the committee fall on deaf ears.

In 1989 alone almost 800 million pounds of processed animals were fed to beef and dairy cattle in the U.S. The USDA has since conceded that **“the potential risk of amplification of the BSE agent is much greater in the US” than it ever was in Great Britain.**

1989 –Dr. Laura Manuelidis (Yale) finds that 13% of patients that die with diagnoses of Alzheimer’s actually have CJD. A similar study performed later at the University of Pittsburgh finds that 5% of those with Alzheimer’s had CJD. With 4 million Americans having Alzheimers, that could mean that between 200,000 to 520,000 people actually have CJD. There are 50,000 deaths a year from alzheimers so there could be an additional 2500 to 6500 unreported cases of CJD a year.

It could be that people with certain genes (heterozygotes) get CJD later in life. From a report on BSE and CJD found in RJ Reynolds collection of documents, written by many, including Paul Brown (National Institute of Health) and Linda Detwiler (USDA) it stated that – “However, it is also possible that (as in the alalogous oral infection of kuru and in peripheral iatrogenic CJD infections) heterozygotes are comparatively resistant to disease and beomce ill after longer incubation periods than those of homozygotes.”

So it is very likely that the recent increase in alzheimers could be at least partially due to increases in CJD that are misdiagnosed as alzheimers.

1989 -- Two government NIH scientists said stop feeding all meat byproducts to US cattle. Yet, they are ignored by the establishment.

1990 – The USDA’s official “Scrapie/BSE Consultants Group meets. It’s small membership is dominated by the National Milk Producers Federation, the National Cattlemen’s Association, the American Sheep Industry Association and soon the National Renderers Association. Dr. Mark Robinson, a USDA researcher, points out that “the rendering processes employed in the UK and the US are virtually the same.” – So they knew we could have a huge problem here in the U.S. Yet, it took another 7 years to implement the slightest changes to ruminant feeding practices.

1990 – The U.S. began superficial surveillance for BSE in cattle. They didn't really want to find it, so the procedures they established were so thin that they were almost assured not to find any BSE cattle. I'll talk about this later on.

1990 – The European Union was worried about the impact on the European Beef industry and was doing what England had previously done in trying to hide it and stop anyone from speaking about it. In 1990, the EU's Director-General for Agriculture Guy Legras had written 'BSE: Stop any meeting'. An internal memo a month later, written by an official from the EC's Consumer Policy Department quoted the EU's Veterinary Committee members as saying '**We must take a cold attitude towards BSE so as not to provoke unfavourable market reactions ... This point should no longer come up as an item on the agenda ... We are going to ask the United Kingdom...to stop publishing any more research results...this BSE affair must be minimized through disinformation. Better to say that the press has a tendency to exaggerate**'. Of course, US cattle lobbyists and the US government were doing the same thing claiming nothing was wrong with our beef.

1990 – Dr. Linda Detwiler (USDA), reports that US sheep scrapie has been spread into cattle in government tests. So even though the cattle industry has said for years that cows can't get scrapie from sheep, the government has proved it can be done. The problem is that for decades, scrapie infected sheep have passed through US rendering plants. Yet, it's still another 7 years until the rendering practices are legally changed.

1990 -- the USDA produces a report titled "BSE Rendering Research Priorities" which warns that rendering plants themselves may be contaminated with TSE disease agents" "If scrapie or BSE infected animals are rendered, it may become necessary to disinfect the rendering facilities. Unfortunately, both the resistance of spongiform encephalopathy agents (TSE's) to many disinfectants and the need to avoid corrosive chemicals in rendering plants create major limitations on the choice of technology available." Essentially this says, even if we do have it, there is no way at this time to be sure that we can clean a plant of the infection.

1990 – tens of thousands of cows have now died of BSE in the U.K. British Agricultural Minister, John Grummer, attempts to allay fears by posing with his 4 year old daughter eating hamburgers. What a stupid man. How can he be so ignorant of the facts in 1990?

1991 -- MBD (Mongoven, Biscoe and Duchin) is a P.R. firm that breaks up activist activities and helps to get anti-business legislation from being passed. It's not a nice group. They don't care about anyone's health. They have done a lot of work for many industries, especially the tobacco industry.

In 1991, Mongoven advised Philip Morris that people professing to have multiple chemical sensitivity "think themselves as being like the canaries that miners took below ground to provide a warning in case of dangerous levels of gas in the air. Unlike the canaries, however, **these people will not just die quietly.**" -- What an awful statement. RJR hired MBD to actively work against the FDA's attempts to regulate tobacco and it looks like MBD (and others) did the same thing for the cattle industry.

Ron Duchin (partner with MBD), gave a speech to the US National Cattlemen's Association describing how MBD works to divide and conquer activist movements. So as early as 1991, MBD was trying to limit speech against cattle.

1991 – A USDA report titled “BSE Rendering Policy” is based largely on data provided by the National Renderers Association, the industry lobby group. It reveals that “the US beef and dairy industries have fed meat and bone meal for at least 10 years.”

1991 -- According to Steve Kopperud of the American Feed Industry Association, his group arranged with Dennis Johnson of the law firm of [Olsson, Frank & Weeda](#) (Wash., D.C.) to draft model food-disparagement legislation. *See also* Marianne Lavelle, *National Law Journal*, May 5, 1997, A-1; *The Webster Agricultural Letter* (vol. 5, # 3, Feb. 6, 1998, Wash., D.C.), p.2). Thereafter, the American Feed Industry Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation distributed the model legislation for industry lobbying purposes. *See AIF Newsletter* (vol. 10, # 3, May 1997). A copy of the "Model State Code to Protect Agricultural Producers & Products from Defamation" can be found as an Appendix to the *LDRC Bulletin, supra*, at pp. 91-93. The AIF, which created the model for the food disparagement laws, shared the same number and address as the American Feed Industry Association. In 1991, Louisiana became the first state to enact such a law. So the US industry went one further than the UK and England. They just didn't suggest to people that you better not talk about BSE, they wanted to make it illegal to talk about BSE. They later tried to enforce this law by suing Oprah for \$10 million.

1992 -- Dr. Friedlander (USDA Vet) was fired for looking for mad cow cases. I interviewed Dr. Friedlander. He was a former decorated USDA veterinarian and meat inspector. He was fired in 1992 for too aggressively looking into possible mad cow cases in the US. He worked at the largest packing plant of hamburgers in the U.S. I believe it was Taylor Packing in Pennsylvania. They also sold beef to the school lunch programs in 26 states. He was so well regarded that he eventually became the trainer for the USDA for the Northeast (from Maine to Virginia), training other vets. He received the Vet Trainer of the Year Award in 1987. Back in 1986 he got hold of the U.K. video tape that showed the clinical symptoms of mad cows while the cows were still alive. He utilized the knowledge to help train other vets to identify possible cases of mad cows through the analysis of symptoms.

While being a trainer, he still worked at the largest hamburger packing plant as an inspector. He saw at least 20 to 25 downed cows a day. Downed cows can't walk. Trouble with walking is a sign of BSE. So some downed cows could be suffering from mad cow disease. Since he had the largest number of downed cows at the largest US plant, he thought this was a great place for the USDA to test for the existence of Mad Cow.

Even though his was the largest hamburger packing plant and even though he had the most downed cows, Dr. Friedlander was never asked to send a downed cow's brain to the USDA for examination during his employment period. He believes if they were interested in finding mad cow, they would be doing more tests. (I read an article on retired USDA vet Michael Schwochert's experiences where he also believes that if the USDA were serious about setting up a thorough surveillance program for this disease, it would do a lot of things differently.)

In 1991, the Head Pathologist at the USDA, Dr. McCasky (spelling?) was brought to a special government inquiry into Mad Cow. They asked him if he thought mad cow would come to the U.S. He said if it ever did, the first person to know about it would be Dr. Friedlander. Dr. McCasky told the panel about Dr. Friedlander's work.

The next morning, Dr. McCasky called Dr. Friedlander about the panel discussion and his statements to them. He implied that the USDA and the government do not want to find Mad Cow. Soon after, Dr. Friedlander released the results of some of his tests and

appeared on the national news. He was fired as a whistle blower and I believe there is a case pending.

1992 -- A USDA consultant group decided that changes in the research program to accommodate the possibility that BSE was already present in the US were “not appropriate at this time”. The panel that made this decision included representatives of the National Milk Producers Federation, the National Renderers Association, the American Sheep Industry Association, and the National Cattlemen’s Association.

1992 - A case was described in the New England Journal of Medicine in which colostrums (breast milk) from a CJD woman was found to be infectious to mice. So much for being 100% sure that milk and cheese are TSE free.

1993- The first known victim of vCJD in England came down with symptoms.

1993 -- In a letter from Guy Legras (the European Commissions Agricultural Directorate) to an Italian official who had requested an investigation into possible links between BSE and CJD, Guy Legras wrote '**... all discussion of BSE inevitably causes problems in the meat market. We have already had an alarm last January after a program on German television, and it is only by dint of prudence and discretion that we have been able to avoid a panic...In order to keep the public reassured, it is essential that we ourselves do not provoke a reopening of the debate ... we need to be prudent and avoid the discussion getting into the scientific committees**'. In another letter from Legras that same year to the German Health Minister, **Legras called for Germany to muzzle its scientists who continued to argue for a ban on British beef.** He wrote: 'I find it quite unacceptable that officials of a national government should seek to undermine community law in this way, particularly on such a sensitive subject. **The persons concerned have had their opportunity in the (European Union) committees to debate their opinions. The vast majority of EU experts have rejected these. I would ask you therefore to ensure that this debate is not continued, particularly in an international forum.**'

1993 -- In a letter to the German Health Minister, the EC's Commissioner for Agriculture, Rene Steichen, warned that '**any public debate on the BSE issue would be dangerous. Every new discussion has dramatic consequences for EU-wide beef consumption.**'

1993 -- The U.S. beef industry adamantly opposed any attempt to stop the practice of feeding cows to cows. On July 5, 1993, the Food Chemical News reported that National Cattlemen’s spokesman Gary Wilson told the Annual Meeting of the USDA’s Scrapie/BSE Consultants Group that “his industry could find **economically feasible** alternatives to the ... feed now supplied by animal protein. **However, the association does not want to set a precedent of being ruled by activists.**”

1993 -- On April 22, 1993, at the USDA’s monthly “BSE meeting” industry groups and government agencies, they heard reports from “five working groups that were established to make recommendations for government policies regarding BSE.” According to the USDA summary of that meeting, the “Feed Practices” working group was represented by David Boseman of the American Feed Industry. Boseman reported that the rendering industry, which produces animal protein supplements used in animal feed, maintains that a ban on

feeding ruminants to ruminants would “**be devastating to the industry.**” --- So even though the Cattlemen’s Association said an economically feasible alternative could be found, the feed industry says it will destroy our business. Boseman then went on to suggest: “A possible solution could be to keep out of the feed those tissues and organs that are at high risk of having BSE agents. The cost of banning ruminant feed now versus later depends on risk factors which should be determined by science, not emotion.” -- The FDA then took their recommendations of what kind of feed ban to put in place. So rather than going with common sense of let’s ban everything until science catches up, they said let’s ban what we know is at high risk. Another bad decision.

1993 -- The spokesperson for the US cattle and rendering industries were quick to label the demands unscientific and exaggerated. Gary Wilson of the National Cattlemen’s Association ridiculed the idea that BSE could pose a risk to humans, calling it a “very creative stretch of scientific research and evidence.” – In England and then in Europe, the governments and industry initially tried to call for “sound science” (meaning 100% sure) rather than using common sense. In the end, stringent regulations put in place earlier on would have saved the cattle industries in both England and in Europe.

1993 – USDA decides it’s a good idea to expand the BSE surveillance program to include examination of brain tissue from “downer” cows. They are just a little slow over there at the USDA. When they started testing cow brains, you would have thought if they wanted to find BSE, downer cows would have been the first group the USDA would have tested. Dr. Marsh let the USDA know about the relation between downer cows and TSE’s back in 1985. So they’ve been testing for three years and haven’t been targeting downer cows even though Dr. Lester Friedlander (USDA whistleblower) had told them to do this years earlier.

1993 – In England, disturbing results emerge from experiments in which goats, sheep, mice, monkeys, pigs, minks and golden hamsters are injected with material from infected cattle. Every species except hamsters develops a form of TSE. Therefore, the fact that our ban in 2003 on ruminant feeding excludes pigs, horses, chickens, blood, etc... is really dumb.

1993 – The Foundation for Economic Trends, a Washington DC public interest group, files a legal petition calling on FDA Commissioner David Kessler and then Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy to order a permanent halt to all feeding of rendered protein to ruminant animals, and to begin intensive monitoring of both the US human and animal population for BSE and CJD. The petition is ignored. Boy that beef lobby is strongly entrenched. I think at the eventual hearing on how the government let the Mad Cow deaths occur in the U.S. (it will at least be a few years away), PAC donations will tell a lot of the story.

1994 – the EC had attempted to stifle scientific debate at a meeting of the EU's Scientific Veterinary Committee.

1995 -- five million tons of processed slaughterhouse leftovers were sold for animal feed in the US.

1996 The UK finally announces after denying it for so long that that **ingestion of mad cow caused the cases of variant CJD.** Yet, in 2003, our U.S. government is so uninterested in CJD that it is not a federally reportable disease here in the U.S, autopsies are not required and

are often discouraged on CJD victims, and there is no real active surveillance effort underway. When clusters are found, little investigation is undertaken before dismissing such clusters as chance. They are playing Russian roulette with US citizens and the barrel is full of ammunition.

1996 – USDA top vet, Linda Detwiler states “To rule out (the one in a million scenario), every year we’d have to look at 2.3 million (cow) brains in the United States.” Yet, in 2002, the U.S. only tested 19,990 animals. How can they possibly continue to say that we are BSE free. By comparison, France is now testing about 20,000 brains per week. Japan tests 100% of their cattle.

1996 -- Infodoc (a service used by large industries to let them know about potential problems) issued a report titled “New Research Links BSE to Human Brain Disease” At the end of the summary, it states that “there would never be anyway to prove that people got CJD from eating infected beef because there was no ethical way to make the necessary scientific tests on people.” – Infodoc wouldn’t include such BSE and CJD reports unless the cattle industry was interested. This document probably made the industry feel good in that since there was no way to prove it, they couldn’t be found liable. So what do they do later on, they stopped legislation from passing that would have been able to trace mad cow beef to where it was sold.

1997 – The European Parliament issued a report on the mishandling of the whole BSE affair. In the report, they accused the European Agricultural Commission and the British government of “**deplorable behavior**”, “**concealing the truth**”, “**blatant instances of neglect**”, and “**serious omissions**”. In one of the examples cited was an internal memo leaked from the European Commission, Department of Consumer Affairs. The memo describes the instructions given to the standing veterinary committee which is comprised of veterinary officials from all the European member states. Item 1 of the memo starts: “**We must take a cold attitude towards BSE so as not to provoke unfavorable market reactions. No longer should BSE be spoken of.**” Item 2: “**We are going to ask the United Kingdom through official channels to stop publishing anymore research results.**”. The document concludes: “**In general context, this BSE affair must be minimized through disinformation. Better to say that the press has the tendency to exaggerate.**”

1997 – The United States finally implements a law banning the feeding cattle to ruminants almost a decade after they imposed the ban in the U.K. Of course, our ban has many exceptions, including pigs, horses, chickens, blood, etc.... even though many scientists believe that these exceptions pose a risk.

1997 – the CDC established National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center at Case Western (under Dr. Gambetti). The CDC won’t accept any diagnosis as Variant CJD, unless it comes from Dr. Gambetti. Yet, he is fallible. As you will see later on.

1997 – Jack died from CJD. The first person we have eating at the NJ Garden State Race Track that then died from CJD. If he got it from the track, he could have eaten it at the track as late as 1993.

1998 -- a state Department of Natural Resources administrator, acting on information from Montana, urged officials to take stronger precautions for preventing CWD (deer TSE). In 2002, the disease (CWD) was confirmed in Montana. State officials now say they wish they would have followed the advice in the 1998 letter. People keep underestimating TSE's.

2000 – Continental Europe got BSE and vCJD.

1999 -- The FDA's TSE Advisory Committee recommended a ban on blood donations from potential donors who had spent more than a total of six months in Britain between 1980 and 1996. In order to for them to have done this, the FDA must believe that possibility exists that blood could transmit CJD from one person to another. In 2000, a sheep was infected by a blood transfusion from another sheep. In 2001, a sheep was infected by transfusion from a cow with BSE. In June 2001, the American Red Cross announced that beginning in mid-September they would “implement a prudent and cautious deferral policy due to the spread of vCJD..... There are no known cases of transmission through human blood transfusion, but animal models have shown it is possible to transmit vCJD through blood.” Yet with all the scientific evidence, it is still not enough for the cattle industry's standard of “sound science”. In 2003, the beef industry still regularly feeds blood from cows to other cows (especially calves) and it is still not illegal.

1999-2000 – Nassau County Cluster of CJD cases. I spoke with Dr. Peter Farmer at the North Shore University Hospital. He said they treat about a million patients a year, so they expect to see about 1 CJD case a year and that is about what they see and have seen, except for a 12 month period between mid-June 1999 and mid-June 2000 when they had 7 cases of CJD.

Dr. Farmer said they reported it to the CDC. The CDC decided not to look into it because they felt the 7 cases fit within the 1 per million population of the state of New York and was therefore not worth looking into. So they just dismissed it. So in 2000, our government still wasn't taking CJD seriously.

2000 -- Carrie (another track employee) and John (a track season pass holder) died from CJD. Both ate regularly at the track. Carrie ate daily there and John ate at least weekly.

2001 -- The FDA admits that TSE prions can appear in other tissues than the brain. Yet, in 2003, the cattle industry still acts as if the brain and spine are the only places where prions have been found.

2001 -- the FDA's action plan states that “Based on the European experience with BSE, it is clear that the discovery of BSE in American cattle would be devastating to the U.S. cattle industry.” -- So what does the FDA do? They don't test enough and they don't look into the TSE cases that have been reported. The old idea of let's tell everyone how hard we are working and do absolutely nothing.

2001 – The AFIA (American Feed Industry Association) states that they “support the existing exceptions based upon sound science.”

2001 -- In the March/April 2001 issue of FDA Veterinarian, an article on Mad Cow stated “FDA and state regulators have conducted nearly 10,000 inspections of renderers, feed mills,

ruminant feeders, dairy farms, protein blenders, feed haulers, and distributors since January 1998. More than three-quarters of these establishments were found to be in compliance.” – So 25% were not in compliance! That’s terrible when dealing with a fatal disease. They knew in the 1980’s that ruminant meat and bone fed to cattle caused the U.K. mad cow explosion and in 1996, they knew that mad cow caused people to die of CJD. The idea that in 2001, 25% of the industry in the U.S. was still failing shows how disinterested the cattle industry was in complying.

2001 -- Dale Moore was named chief of staff to Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman. Previously, Dale was the Chief Lobbyist for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. And yet, they claim no conflict of interest.

2002 – The USDA finds 35% of our ground beef from automated plants contains cattle brain and spine. It’s not a great thought when thinking of how many hamburgers our kids have eaten.

2002 – Another victim (Jay) died from CJD. He ate at the track at least once.

2002 -- GAO report on Mad Cow found that “While BSE has not been found in the United States, federal actions do not sufficiently ensure that all BSE-infected animals or products are kept out or that if BSE were found, it would be detected promptly and not spread to other cattle through animal feed or enter the human food supply.” It further found that the FDA had misled Congress and the public in reporting on compliance and that the FDA had not placed a high priority on oversight of the feed ban.

The report also stated that “In light of the experiences in Japan and other countries that were thought to be BSE free, we believe that it would be prudent for USDA to consider taking some action to inform consumers when products may contain central nervous system or other tissue that could pose a risk if taken from a BSE-infected animal. This effort would allow American consumers to make more informed choices about the products they consumers.”

In Conclusion they found that “BSE and vCJD are devastating, incurable, inevitably fatal diseases. If they enter the country, they can bring dire economic consequences to the cattle and beef industries. Therefore, forceful federal prevention efforts are warranted to keep BSE away..... Because of these import weaknesses – and because BSE may have entered in imports from countries that have since developed the disease -- BSE may be silently incubating somewhere in the United States. If that is the case, then **FDA’s failure to enforce the feed ban may already have placed US herds and, in turn, human food supply at risk.** FDA has no clear enforcement strategy for dealing with firms that do not obey the feed ban, and it does not know what, if any, enforcement actions the states may be taking. Moreover, FDA has been using inaccurate, incomplete, and unreliable data to track and oversee feed ban compliance.... In addition, although USDA has been proactive in increasing the number of cattle brains tested, it does not test many animals that die on farms, even though it recognizes that older animals and animals that die from unknown causes are at higher risk for BSE.”

2002 -- The Meat Inspectors Union called on the USDA to disavow instructions given to meat inspectors in Kansas. The instructions reportedly cautioned inspectors that they could be held accountable for lost production if they failed to justify slowing slaughterplant lines,

whether to examine possible fecal contamination or to wash their hands. The memo states “stopping production for possible cross contamination is unjustifiable unless you can verify that there is direct product contamination. Verification is observation of gross contaminate not suspected contaminate.” --- But how can one verify a suspicion when it is going by so quickly and they aren’t allowed to slow down the line. --- Hundreds of decisions like these that are pro cattle industry and negative consumers health show that the USDA continues to be on the side of industry.

2002 – The Institute of Neurology at the University College of London found cases of sporadic (classic) CJD in mice that were linked to ingesting mad cow beef. The beef industry must have had a heart attack when that came out. They rolled the dice, took their chances, and now their worst fears are coming true. But, they should have known earlier since there are so many strains of scrapie, and other TSE’s.

2003 -- Carol (track employee), Kenneth (ate at track at least once), and Maryland woman (who loved to go to race tracks) died from CJD. We are just halfway through the year. Is our epidemic picking up?

2003 -- USDA shuts down a plant that is still putting banned feed in cattle feed and not labeling it. It’s about time the USDA took some action. Could it be that my requests under the Freedom of Information Act ruffled some feathers?

2003 – The FDA under pressure from the food industry (of which the beef industry is the largest component) is loosening the restrictions on how much scientific proof is required to advertise a food's possible health benefits on its package. So the cattle industry wants 100% “sound science” for anything negative about their beef, but they want to make good health claims about their beef, with less than 100% scientifically proven conclusions. So when it comes to the health of the consumer, they want 100% proof before they take action. But when it comes down to the sale of more beef, they want less than 100% proof in order to advertise benefits. The dollar wins over consumers health again.

2003 -- A bill that would have stopped downer cows from going to market was shot down. The USDA estimates 130,000 downers a year.

Texas Rep. Charlie Stenholm, the top Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee, said that the bill was not needed since federal and state inspectors are in the best position to guarantee that sick animals, as opposed to those that can't walk but are otherwise healthy, do not enter the food chain. (For some reason, he thinks that cows that can't walk can be well. How is that possible?)

But Rep. Ackerman reminded him that downed animals pose a public health risk, noting that the Canadian cow infected with mad cow disease was a downer.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur, an Ohio Democrat who supported the proposed ban, said that only a small percentage of downed animals are actually tested for mad cow disease.

2003 -- The food labeling law was shot down because of cost. The USDA estimated the cost to be \$2 billion, while the University of Florida produced a study that found it would cost between \$70 million and \$193 million. So again it comes down to cost over health.

2003 – In the last 15 years of testing cows for BSE, only 40,000 brains have been tested. Yet, 37 million cows are slaughtered every year. Is this active surveillance?

2003 – A man in Washington is currently dieing from vCJD. It is believed he ate a deer that had Chronic Wasting Disease. They won't know for sure if it is Variant until after his death.

2003 – Just last week, they found a new strain of BSE in a cow in Japan. They said it was very similar to, but not exactly the same as the new one found in Italy. Then today, (Oct. 22, 2003), it was announced that France has found 2 cows that have a new strain of BSE that is very different from the ones found in Italy and Japan. The CDC and the Cattlemen's Association will eventually have to admit that there are several strains of CJD from eating tainted meat.

Attachment 3 The Cover-Up

Currently, our U.S. government and our cattle industry are repeating the same actions that the United Kingdom's government and their cattle industry did back in 1994 and 1995 when it was "deny it at all costs". It did not matter that well known scientists were raising red flags everywhere. The government and the industry denied it all the way up until 1996, when it blew up in their faces.

The main defense the United States has against TSE's entering our food supply lies in the USDA's hands. The problem is that the USDA has two conflicting mandates. First, promote U.S. food. Second, make sure U.S. food is safe for human consumption.

So on one hand there is the \$150 billion beef industry, the \$2.4 billion rendering industry, and billions in beef exports and on the other hand there is Joe Smith who enjoys eating his hamburgers and believes the beef industry when it says "we don't have a single case of BSE here in the United States". Therefore, it's just common sense that if the USDA does not firmly hold onto it's independence, the cattle industry is logically going to win the battle. The lack of independence is easily shown by the fact that in 2001, Dale Moore (Chief Lobbyist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association) was named chief of staff to Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman. But the cozy relationship between the cattle industry and the USDA goes back much further.

The United Kingdom had an agency similar to the USDA that was also burdened with the two conflicting mandates -- and we know which mandate won there. The cattle industry was to be protected at all costs.

The European Union had the same problem. They decided that protecting the cattle industry was more important than protecting the health of their citizens. Just like Great Britain's attempt to silence anyone that spoke out about BSE, the European Union did the same thing. For example, in 1990, there was an internal memo written by the European Commission, Department of Consumer Affairs. The memo describes the instructions given to the standing veterinary committee which is comprised of veterinary officials from all the European member states. It states:

"We must take a cold attitude towards BSE so as not to provoke unfavorable market reactions. No longer should BSE be spoken of.... We are going to ask the United Kingdom through official channels to stop publishing anymore research results..... In general context, this BSE affair must be minimized through disinformation. Better to say that the press has the tendency to exaggerate."

In a 1993 letter from Guy Legras (the European Commissions Agricultural Director-General) to an Italian official who had requested an investigation into possible links between BSE and CJD, Guy Legras wrote:

"... all discussion of BSE inevitably causes problems in the meat market. We have already had an alarm last January after a program on German television, and it is only by

dint of prudence and discretion that we have been able to avoid a panic...In order to keep the public reassured, it is essential that we ourselves do not provoke a reopening of the debate ... we need to be prudent and avoid the discussion getting into the scientific committees.”

In another letter from Legras that same year to the German Health Minister, Legras called for Germany to muzzle its scientists who continued to argue for a ban on British beef. He wrote:

“I find it quite unacceptable that officials of a national government should seek to undermine community law in this way, particularly on such a sensitive subject. The persons concerned have had their opportunity in the (European Union) committees to debate their opinions. The vast majority of EU experts have rejected these. I would ask you therefore to ensure that this debate is not continued, particularly in an international forum.”

But it’s not true that all EU experts rejected these. Many great well respected scientists were sounding the alarms. Legras and the rest just chose to ignore those scientists whom had findings that they didn’t want to hear.

Also in 1993, in a letter to the German Health Minister, the EC's Commissioner for Agriculture, Rene Steichen, warned that:

“any public debate on the BSE issue would be dangerous. Every new discussion has dramatic consequences for EU-wide beef consumption.”

In 1997, after a thorough investigation, the European Parliament issued a report on the mishandling of the whole BSE affair. In the report, they accused the European Agricultural Commission and the British government of “**deplorable behavior**”, “**concealing the truth**”, “**blatant instances of neglect**”, and “**serious omissions**”.

The sad thing is that the U.S. learned nothing from the failures in Great Britain and the U.K.

- 1) They all denied they had BSE.
- 2) They all tried to silence the scientists that were raising the red flags.
- 3) They all had citizens die of CJD due to eating tainted beef.
- 4) Eventually, they all had follow-up investigations that blamed the government for it’s mishandling of the crisis.

The U.S. is now between steps 3 and 4 and all of this could have been prevented. But our U.S. cattle industry and our government have taken the denial and cover-up to new heights by trying to make it illegal to even talk about Mad Cow in the United States.

In 1991, Steve Kopperud of the American Feed Industry Association arranged with Dennis Johnson of the law firm of [Olsson, Frank & Weeda](#) (Wash., D.C.) to draft model food-disparagement legislation. [Marianne Lavelle, *National Law Journal*, May 5, 1997, A-1; The *Webster Agricultural Letter* (vol. 5, # 3, Feb. 6, 1998, Wash., D.C.), p.2.] Thereafter, the American Feed Industry Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation distributed

the model legislation for industry lobbying purposes. [*See AIF Newsletter* (vol. 10, # 3, May 1997).]

A copy of the "Model State Code to Protect Agricultural Producers & Products from Defamation" can be found as an Appendix to the *LDRC Bulletin, supra*, at pp. 91-93. The AIF, which created the model for the food disparagement laws, shared the same number and address as the American Feed Industry Association. In 1991, Louisiana became the first state to enact such a law. So the US went one step further than the UK and the EU. They didn't just suggest that BSE shouldn't be talked about. They wanted to make it illegal. They later tried to enforce this law by suing Oprah for \$10 million because Oprah talked about Mad Cow on her show. Luckily, the cattle industry picked the wrong person to pick-on. Someone that wouldn't be silenced for fear of a lawsuit. Oprah defeated the cattle industry.

Step 4 will come eventually and there will be an inquiry. It's just a matter of when.

Attachment 4

Why has our government and the cattle industry ignored the warnings?

I can only ask myself why when our U.S. government and the U.S. cattle industry saw what was going on in the U.K. and then in Europe, why have they done nothing pro-active in ensuring that it doesn't happen here? Yes, superficially they have been doing things, but when one looks at the details, really they have done nothing. Both have fought against every and all regulations that would have nipped this in the bud and saved lives and the industry in the long run. Yet, they decided denial and trying to silence those opposed would be their strategy.

I believe the reason the cattle industry fought these regulations was because for so long the cattle industry had in it's mindset that fighting regulations that would put limitations on them would always be in their industries best interest – that when faced with the BSE situation, they didn't even think twice about fighting all new regulations.

In studying what happened in England, I found out that as the CJD deaths increased and as the cows were destroyed and cattlemen lost their livelihoods, they had a surge in suicides among farmers. The government actually stepped in and began giving counseling to the farmers. I feel very sorry for those farmers, they didn't know about the BSE and CJD. It just happened to hit first in the U.K.

I feel just as sad for our small U.S. cattlemen who have been indoctrinated by the Cattlemen's Association that they don't have to worry about BSE. I wish someone could get the facts out to them. I've spoken with some and many never realized the true facts. This group of small cattlemen is going to be hurt most (after those that die from CJD) and they don't even realize that they are next.

And then there is the question of why our government hasn't gotten more involved. I believe they lost their independence to the cattle industry years ago and since the cattle industry didn't want any new regulations, they weren't going to fight hard for any. If the government was interested in CJD, they would make it a federally reportable disease and require autopsies, they would investigate the CJD clusters, and ban all ruminant feeding without exception, and educate the cattlemen so they learn why it's so important that they not circumvent the procedures. Yet, one of the most well known things to come out of the USDA in the last few years is there advertising campaign promoting beef consumption. They ran all those ad's "Beef. It's what's for dinner."

Australian academic Alex Carey once wrote that the "twentieth century has been characterized by three developments of great political importance -- the growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power, and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy."