

It is more dangerous than ever to eat meat!

# Beware of Mad Cow Disease

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***This is no laughing matter. The feed companies have been increasingly putting things into animal feeds, which should not be there: growth hormones, antibiotics, and even insecticides. But—in far larger quantities—are the ground-up dead animals which, along with grain, constitutes the major part of the daily rations of livestock in America.***

***Whatever kind of dead animal that you buy at the meat market, it is sure to have eaten a combination of chemicals and carcasses before it was killed at the slaughterhouse.***

***But now we learn that portions of those slain animals are also mixed into other preparations which you would not suspect.***

***In this article, we will focus our attention primarily on mad cow disease and products containing dead cows. Yet all other domestic animals, slain for human use in some way, were also fed dangerous chemicals, hormones, and diseased animal parts.***

In 1986, *bovine spongiform encephalopathy* (BSE; also called *mad cow disease*) was first discovered in British cattle. It was suspected that the cows had contracted the disease from feed made out of the remains of sheep which had been infected by a brain disease known as *scrapie*.

Farmers paid less for infected feed, which included ground up sheep and cows.

At the time, the British government took measures it believed would prevent the disease from being spread to other cattle. But the British government now admits that, since 1986, there have been 161,000 cases of the disease in cows. So it has not been eradicated.

To make matters worse, the disease is believed to have an incubation period of about 10 years!

It is an interesting fact that the British government had kept the secret for over a decade, but was only forced to admit the problem when, in 1997, a number of cases of *Creutzfeldt-Jakob*

*Disease* (CJD) began occurring in humans. That is the human counterpart of mad cow disease.

The evidence indicated that the people had been eating beef, infected with BSE.

Experts also believe that the bovine disease may now be in cattle on the European continent and in North America.

You have probably never heard of *prions* (preons), but it is time now to learn. Young people in England are going mad from the same prions which affect their mad cows.

We have prions in U.S. cows also, but the disease has a somewhat different name. We call it *Downer Cow Syndrome* (DCS), and it kills 100,000 cows each year in America. Many are sent to the slaughterhouse for human consumption. It is known that several animal species, including chimpanzees, can be infected with the prions of Downer cows. Their brains “rot,” in the same manner that mad cow disease ruins the brains of cows and people. This is because all these diseases are caused by prions.

What are *prions*? They are not a bacteria, nor are they a virus. They are a certain type of protein particle!

Prions are practically indestructible. They can be baked, irradiated, autoclaved, boiled, buried, pasteurized, and roasted—without being affected. They can even be placed in quick lime without being damaged. Not even formalin, used to preserve animal specimens, destroys them. Prions are just as dangerous after such treatment as before.

There is only one way to avoid them: Do not eat anything which comes from a sick or diseased animal.

A prion is a protein molecule that has baffled science because it has no DNA or RNA, can survive even when heated to 360 degrees Celsius for one hour, and produces no specific antibodies in an infected animal.

Mad cow disease is found in beef muscle, brain, and nerves. Whether or not it is in milk is not yet certain. If you clean off a cow bone well-enough and then chomp it up, you might be able to avoid prions, but make sure you do not eat any of the flesh.

So prions are the cause of mad cow disease. What does that disease do to those infected with it? Simple enough; it turns their brains into a sponge-like substance that is riddled with holes. That is why it is called *spongiform encephalopathy*. The Latin terms mean “spongy brain disease.”

As if that is not bad enough, it can be two to 15 years before you know you have been infected with it! Medically speaking, it has a 2-15-year incubation period.

It was not until two years after the discovery of the problem, that the British government overcame opposition from the feed companies, and banned the feeding of sheep and cows to cows. But, since 1988, 70 cattle a week are still being diagnosed with the disease and 10,000 cows born after the ban have since contracted BSE. That proves that infected dead animals are still, knowingly or unknowingly, being placed in the commercial feeds or sold in the supermarkets and road-houses.

It is believed that 500,000 to a million Britons may already be infected with CJD! But, because of the incubation period, the true facts in the number of infected cases will not be known for a decade. All the while, more sick cattle are being born, slaughtered, and eaten.

It might have been many more years before the truth was told, but it was the admission of one man that broke the silence and got the British government moving.

Sir Bernard Tomlinson, Britain’s former health adviser, reported on a radio interview his fears of a link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) and Creutzfeldt Jakob disease (its human equivalent).

A number of people had already sickened, gone mad, and died under strange circumstances. But, just after Tomlinson’s report, 10 new victims passed away. Some of these were in their teens, and the average age was 27. They had been healthy young adults—and were suddenly stricken with a mysterious disease.

The British medical journal, *Lancet*, reported on their deaths in its April 1996 issue. The same month, an article appeared in an American magazine:

“ [The deaths of these 10 Britons were] the latest in a series of CJD deaths that are so different from the textbook description of the disease—The victims were young, the brain tissue looked like Alzheimer’s—that they suggest a link to mad cow’s disease,” says Dr. Paul Brown of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.—*Newsweek*, April 8, 1996.

This was puzzling, since young people never contract Alzheimer’s disease, and the holes in the brains of these dead people were just like the holes in the dead cows which were dying in the fields.

The human victims become depressed, confused, unsteady. They go insane, and finally become totally incapacitated. Within 6 to 13 months after the first symptoms, they die.

Dr. John Pattison issued a warning over British television that “tens of thousands” of Britons could already be infected with the fatal brain disease known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob—without knowing it.

He is the British government’s chief medical adviser on mad cow disease, and he warned that the United Kingdom could be on the verge of a health epidemic reaching the proportions of AIDS.

People in England were so shocked by all this, that, within a short time afterward, 28,000 adults became vegetarians.

And bovine spongiform encephalopathy is spreading. People are getting sick with it in Switzerland, France, Portugal, Canada, and elsewhere.

The U.S. Department of Health officially states that no cases have occurred yet in America. However, there are medical experts who have questioned the accuracy of that statement.

It is well-known among medical experts that no cure for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is known, and that the person cannot even be diagnosed as having the sickness until he is dead! Only then can an autopsy reveal the nature of the problem.

Mad cow disease can also mimic multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer’s disease. It is estimated that about 5 percent of Alzheimer’s patients show changes consistent with prions’ destruction of the brain. So, in addition to using aluminum cookware, flesh-eating could also be a significant cause of Alzheimer’s.

It is of interest that vegetarians, such as Seventh-day Adventists, have only one-half the incidence of Alzheimer’s disease that meat-eaters have (see *Neuroepidemiology*, May 11:28-36, 1993).

Richard Lacey, a leading microbiologist, was reported in the *Toronto Star* as saying:

“Eighty percent of all British cattle come from infected herds, and you don’t know which animals

are infected and which are not. You'd have to destroy the whole lot."—*Toronto Star*, March 18, 1996.

The article in that major Canadian newspaper then gave other significant facts:

"Lacey had told the *Star* in January that the government was involved in a massive cover-up of the extent of the mad cow and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease problem and said scientists were under severe pressure to toe the government line.

"He said the problem was already out of control and that by the year 2010, between 5,000 and 500,000 Britons would die every year as a result."—*Ibid.*

The European Union was quick to respond to the announcement of what was happening in Britain, by issuing an worldwide ban on the export of British beef.

In 1978, *Foreign Affairs* magazine declared it to be a "grandiose assumption that diseases could be geographically sequestered." In other words, diseases cannot be kept within certain national borders.

Regarding the animal disease problem, the only solution is to stop eating animals!

With modern transportation, diseases can travel rapidly across great distances. The European Union recognized that the exportation of British beef could cause insanity among people all over the world, ten years or so after they ate it.

In order to soothe the concerns of the Canadian public, officials in Toronto announced, in 1993, that efforts were being made to destroy herds in Canada which might have come in contact with infected cattle. Those officials also announced something else.

That March 28, 1996, issue of the *Toronto Star*, said that Canadian officials were concerned about the possibility that the disease might get into products made from beef parts. According to Dr. Jamie Hockin, an epidemiologist with the Laboratory Center for Disease Control in Ottawa, these included " 'confectionaries such as imported British jellies, biscuits, cakes, licorice, all sorts of, mints and wine gums, which contain gelatin boiled from beef ligaments and skin . . . Such 'peripheral' beef products, include cosmetics, shampoos and soaps.' "—*Ibid.*

So there are para-meat products which you had better be careful about also.

Is it likely that the British cow plague will come to America? Of course it is. The underlying problem is the feed companies. They send their lobbyists to state capitals and Washington, provide money for reelection campaigns. In turn, govern-

ment agencies are told to let them continue putting putrid meat products in the animal feeds.

You find it hard to believe that such terrible things are put into animal feeds? Read this:

"The feeding of ruminant protein [diseased sheep and cow parts] to cows continues at a rate of millions of pounds per day."—*Virgil Hulse, M.D., M.P.H., Mad Cows and Milkgate, 41.*

The feed industry has a name for the kind of animals it buys to chop, grind up, and mix into animal feeds. They are called "4-D animals." That is a pleasant-sounding name for "diseased, disabled, dead, and dying." Still hungry for a roast beef sandwich?

Cows and sheep are, by nature, vegetarians, not carnivorous. But they are forced to eat diseased, rotting animal flesh and are also given a nice name: "high protein livestock feed." This makes the poor creatures diseased, but the farmer sees this as no problem. According to U.S.D.A. standards, the sick, dying creatures can be killed and sold for food—to people.

These sick animals are called "downers." When a cow or sheep becomes too sick to even walk or stand, it is said to have *downer cow syndrome*. Over 20,00 downers are sold for human food each year in Wisconsin alone.

But there are other things which are placed in the animal feeds: cow skins, chicken manure, dead sheep, and chicken and turkey feathers. This is said to increase the protein content of the feed. Is this what you want to serve your family? Certain financial interests in America hope you will.

Keep in mind that *scrapie* is where the problem began in Britain. Dead sheep that had this mad sheep disease (scrapie) were ground up into animal feed and then fed to cows, which developed mad cow disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). Then, when people ate the cows, they eventually developed what could be called mad people disease (Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease).

But scrapie is already in America sheep! Can you see what is ahead? Sheep in all but 11 states in the U.S. are already infected with scrapie, and farmers are feeding this bypass protein to cows.

Does all this sound too terrible to be true? Well, it is. The name of the game is profit. Everyone down the line is profiting, except the person who eats the meat: Ranchers, feed companies, elected officials, doctors, hospitals, and morticians. If you do not eat meat, you avoid the problem.

Do you recall the 1985 outbreak of *transmit-*

*tal mink encephalopathy* (TME)? It is also called mad mink disease. People were scratching their heads, wondering what was happening—until someone told the facts.

At one mink ranch in Wisconsin, the diet fed to the minks consisted of 95 percent downer cows, and 5 percent horse meat. At that ranch, 7,300 adult mink (60 percent) developed clinical signs of TME. They all died. Moral of the story: Do not feed diseased animals to anybody—animals, pets, or people.

A key factor here is that the prions—those diseased proteins—can cross the species barrier. Through diseased feed or food, they can be transmitted from sheep to cows, cows to mink, cows to people, and on and on.

Did you know that the U.S. government decided to stop killing scrapie sheep, and gave as its reason that the public might become worried about mad cow disease? Sound ridiculous? It is.

It is known that over 7,500 sheep in the U.S. have scrapie. But federal authorities decided it was safer to let them remain alive, and continue to be used in animal feed:

“USDA discontinued the compulsory scrapie eradication program because it would be perceived by the public that it [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] was a threat to health.”—*Virgil Hulse, M.D., M.P.H., Mad Cows and Milkgate, 36.*

That was the excuse given. It is more likely that the real reason was that someone’s palm was greased by lobbyists in Washington, D.C.

How soon will the British cow plague start here? It may already have begun.

“There is the possibility, even the likelihood of an outbreak of BSE and its associated human form, CJD occurring in the United States. It may already have arrived here, and been missed in the background noise of the enormous human tragedy of our epidemic of Alzheimer’s disease. It is quite possible that many cases of CJD have been misdiagnosed here as Alzheimer’s, disguising the onset of the epidemic by not recognizing it for what it is, and giving us a false sense of security. In fact, there is good evidence that BSE has been in the United States since the mid-’70s.”—*Howard Straus, “The Approaching Era of BSE,” in Gerson Healing Newsletter, July/August 1996.*

Call to mind that Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease cannot be diagnosed till death occurs.

Remember also another fact, mentioned earlier in this report: Seventh-day Adventists in the U.S. have only one-half the incidence of Alzheimer’s disease that meat eaters have (*Neuroepidemiology, May 11:28-36, 1993*). A corollary fact, from other

sources, is that approximately one-half of American Seventh-day Adventists eat meat!

Men can make problems that they cannot easily solve. British incinerators are hard at work, trying to burn up 4.7 million cows. There are 10 of those bake ovens, but they can only cremate a thousand cattle each week. The elimination of the cows could take years to complete.

But the prions are not destroyed, so they pass into the ground and streams. A British newspaper, *The Times*, disclosed that land and water supplies could be contaminated for many years.

“Dr. Alan Colchester, a consultant neurologist at Guy’s Hospital in London, has been caring for the only cluster group of people suffering from CJD . . . [He] told BBC Radio 4’s *World This Weekend* that there was no guarantee that the substances known as prions . . . were being consistently destroyed by the rendering process.”—*Wall Street Journal, January 2, 1997.*

The article noted that one of the British feed mills was dumping the resultant waste on the ground, and the others were pouring it into the sewage systems. When the water is purified at the processing plant, prions could pass on into the drinking water.

In America, the Clinton Administration assuaged any fears the public might have, by announcing that a partial ban on the recycling of waste animal protein into livestock feed would begin. “Some livestock feed items” would be banned, but not all of them. “Bovine blood, waste milk, and gelatin” would be accepted, and “the proposal wouldn’t apply to chicken feed, hog rations, or pet food.”—*Ibid.*

The above-quoted article also noted that the industry did not fear making people sick, but losing some money in the process.

“Many independent renderers and meat packers fear the stigma could hurt their sales of ruminant protein for these uses . . . In such an event, lost sales and disposal could hit 1.6 billion according to one industry estimate.”—*Ibid.*

So if they sell it, meat eaters will eventually eat it. If they dispose of it, the wells and rivers of America will be contaminated, for “it would force millions of tons of inedible by-products into landfills each year.”—*Ibid.*

The problem is too many diseased animals, producing diseased proteins (prions).

One thing is certain: Do not eat meat products and you are likely to live a better, happier, longer life.

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