

Progress in Research on BSE

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As safety measures against BSE, removal of specified risk materials (SRM) and screening of infected cattle by rapid BSE test are conducted in member countries of European Union and Japan. In this paper scientific basis on these measures will be presented. Data obtained from pathogenesis studies on 40 calves orally inoculated with BSE prion in the U.K. served as the basis for determination of SRM. Currently more detailed experiments on the pathogenesis studies are being conducted in the U.K., Germany and Japan. In addition, new information is being obtained on the samples of fallen stocks on the farm in Germany and Japan. For rapid BSE test, many diagnosis kits have been developed. Most of them are based on the detection of proteinase K (PK)-resistant abnormal prion protein, whereas PK-sensitive abnormal prion protein can be detected by conformation dependent immunoassay. BSE tests on live cattle are not available.