

Fact Sheet
Congresswoman Barbara Cubin's 2007 Farm Bill Amendment
Restrictions on Imports from Countries with BSE

Congresswoman Barbara Cubin's Amendment (Cubin Amendment) protects the U.S. cattle herd and U.S. consumers against the introduction and spread of BSE into the U.S. and it would stop the USDA's over 30-month rule (OTM Rule). The Cubin Amendment:

- Prohibits the importation of live cattle from any country where BSE was detected in cattle born within the previous 8 years.
- Prohibits the importation of beef from cattle over 30 months of age from any country where BSE was detected in cattle born within the previous 8 years.
- Prohibits the importation of live cattle over 30 months of age from any country where BSE was detected in cattle born within the previous 11 years.
- Prohibits the importation of beef from cattle of any age from any country where BSE was detected in cattle born within the previous 11 years if specified risk materials are not removed at slaughter and if they are allowed to be used in feed for any animal.

The Cubin Amendment incorporates science-based standards established by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to ensure the safety of beef and cattle imports:

- It incorporates the OIE's science-based standard for an effectively enforced feed ban that has been in place for 8 years to prevent the continued spread of BSE.
- It incorporates the OIE's science-based standard for a time span of 11 years since the birth date of the last BSE detection to ensure that BSE presents only a negligible risk.
- It incorporates the OIE's science-based standard for a prohibition against the use of specified risk materials in all animal feeds to prevent the continued spread of BSE through cross-contamination.

The Cubin Amendment would effectively STOP the USDA's proposed OTM Rule by prohibiting the importation of OTM cattle from any country that has detected BSE in cattle born within the previous 11 years. In addition, the Cubin Amendment would:

- Limit U.S. exposure to BSE by preventing specified risk materials, which are most likely to harbor the BSE agent, from being introduced into the U.S. via the importation of live cattle during the prolonged incubation period of BSE.
- Limit U.S. exposure to older cattle and beef from older cattle, which are known to be of higher risk for BSE, by allowing their importation only after sufficient time has lapsed for which to verify the effectiveness of the exporting country's feed ban.