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Dear Valued Customer:

In response to yesterday's announcement by the USDA that a single Holstein cow in Washington State had tested presumptive positive for BSE, National Beef wants to reassure our customers that all measures are being taken to continue to maintain the safety of the U.S. beef supply. This is believed to be an isolated case and is the first case detected by the USDA since they began BSE surveillance in 1990. The source herd in Washington State has been located and quarantined.

It is important to understand the facts about BSE.

- BSE is found only in the central nervous system tissue such as the brain and spinal cord. It does not transfer to beef muscle tissue.
- BSE affects older cattle, typically cows greater than 30 months of age.
- Contaminated feed is the only way in which BSE can be spread. The USDA issued a ban in 1997 on feeding ruminant-derived meat and bone meal supplements to cattle.
- There is no evidence that BSE can be spread by contact between unrelated cattle or from cattle to other species.

National Beef prides itself in having a comprehensive and strict food safety inspection process for all cattle entering our processing system. All National Beef cattle are sourced only from well-managed Midwestern feedyards. All of our feedyards are required to sign affidavits with National Beef verifying compliance with mandatory FDA feeding regulations. No cattle from Washington State are sources for any National Beef products.

At National Beef all products, including ground beef, are sourced from steers and heifers, typically less than 24 months of age. We do not slaughter or process cows or bulls.

The USDA has established a toll-free hotline for consumers who have further questions. This phone number is 1-888-MPHotline. Two websites can also be accessed for additional information and updates at [www.USDA.gov](http://www.USDA.gov) or [www.BSEinfo.org](http://www.BSEinfo.org).

Along with Agriculture Secretary, Ann Veneman, National Beef wants to reassure both you and your consumers of the safety of the U.S. beef supply. Should you have any questions or need further information please feel free to contact your National Beef representative at 1-800-449-BEEF.

Regards,

John Miller  
National Beef, CEO

Tim Klein  
National Beef, President