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**(Neb.) - Nebraska Cattlemen Statement on USDA Announcement on Positive BSE Test Result**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/24/2012 03:57 PM

Nebraska Cattlemen issued the following statement regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) confirmation of an atypical case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy cow in central California.

"USDA confirmed this afternoon a positive test result as part of its targeted surveillance program to test cattle for BSE. USDA has confirmed this dairy animal was discovered at a rendering facility and was never presented for human consumption and poses zero risk to human health. The bottom line remains the same – all U.S. beef is safe.

"America's cattle producers' top priority is raising healthy cattle. As such, the U.S. beef community has collaborated with and worked with animal health experts and government to put in place multiple interlocking safeguards over the past two decades to prevent BSE from taking hold in the United States."

"This animal didn't enter the food supply at any time," stated Dr. John Clifford, USDA Chief Veterinary Officer. "The safety of our food is addressed through our interlocking safeguards and through the removal of any type of material that can contain the BSE agent. We continually protect public health through the removal of these materials."