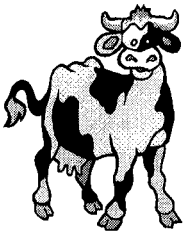
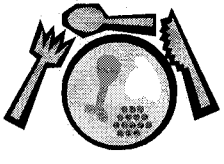


Journal of Jewish Health, Volume 1, Kislev, 5762

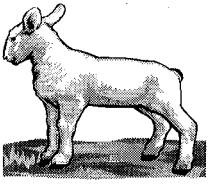
The following is not for the faint of heart, or for those whose motto is "ignorance is bliss!" What you are about to read is factual, verifiable, and down-right disturbing. However, as our Holy Torah commands us, one must love their fellow Jew as they love themselves. It would be much easier for me to close my eyes to what most Jews do not know, but it is a Mitzvah to speak Emet. Our Holy Torah commands us with general edicts to be both holy and healthy. Ask yourselves this question after reading this: Is it a Mitzvah to feed your family garbage on Shabbos? Would Moshe Rabbenu have beef on his Shabbos table that was groomed from birth like cattle are in this country, and throughout the world?

This book has been prepared in the merit of Meir ben Moshe, may his Neshama have an Aliya!

Prepared and researched by Pinchas ben Eliezer, Ph.D., Flatbush, New York



"And You shall be a Holy People to Me" - The Torah



Ignorance may be bliss, but here is another example of how we are slowly, but steadily, killing ourselves!

Article is entitled, "The Dark Side of Recycling," from the Fall, 1990, Earth Island Journal.

The rendering plant floor is piled high with "raw product": thousands of dead dogs and cats; heads and hooves from cattle, sheep, pigs and horses; whole skunks; rats and raccoons --all waiting to be processed. In the 90-degree heat, the piles of dead animals seem to have a life of their own as millions of maggots swarm over the carcasses. Two bandanna-masked men begin operating Bobcat mini-dozers, loading the raw materials into a 10-foot-deep stainless-steel pit. They are undocumented workers from Mexico, doing a dirty job. A giant auger-grinder at the bottom of the pit begins to turn. Popping bones and squeezing flesh are sounds from a nightmare you will never forget.

Rendering is the process of cooking raw animal material to remove the moisture and fat. The rendering plant works like a giant kitchen. The cooker blends the raw product in order to maintain a certain ratio between the carcasses of pets, livestock, poultry waste and supermarket rejects. Once the mass is cut into small pieces, it is transported to another auger for fine shredding. It is then cooked at 280 degrees for one hour. The continuous batch cooking process goes on non-stop 24 hours a day, seven days a week as meat is melted away from bones in the hot "soup." During this cooking process, the soup produces a fat of yellow grease or tallow that rises to the top and is skimmed off. The cooked meat and bone are sent to a hammermill press, which squeezes out the remaining moisture and pulverizes the product into a gritty powder. Shaker screens sift out excess hair and large bone chips. Once the batch is finished, all that is left is yellow grease, meal and bone meal.

As the American Journal of Veterinary Research explains, this recycled meat and bone meal is used as "a source of protein and other nutrients in the diets of poultry and swine and in pet foods, with lesser amounts used in the feed of cattle and sheep. Animal fat is also used in animal feeds as an energy source." Every day, hundreds of rendering plants across the United States truck millions of tons of this "food enhancer" to poultry ranches, cattle feed-lots, dairy and hog farms, fish-feed plants and pet-food manufacturers where it is mixed with other ingredients to feed the billions of animals that meat-eating humans, in turn, will eat.

Rendering plants have different specialties. The labeling designation of a particular "run" of product is defined by the predominance of a specific animal. Some
product-label names are: meat meal, meat by-products, poultry meal, poultry by-products, fish meal, fish oil, yellow grease, tallow, beef fat and chicken fat. Rendering plants perform one of the most valuable functions on Earth: they recycle used animals. Without rendering, our cities would run the risk of becoming filled with diseased and rotting carcasses. Fatal viruses and bacteria would spread uncontrolled through the population. Death is the number one commodity in a business where the demand for feed ingredients far exceeds the supply of raw product. But this elaborate system of food production through waste management has evolved into a recycling nightmare. Rendering plants are unavoidably processing toxic waste.

The dead animals (the "raw") are accompanied by a whole menu of unwanted ingredients. Pesticides enter the rendering process via poisoned livestock, and fish oil laced with bootleg DDT and other organophosphates that have accumulated in the bodies of West Coast mackerel and tuna. Because animals are frequently shoved into the pit with flea collars still attached organophosphate-containing insecticides get into the mix as well. The insecticide Dursban arrives in the form of cattle insecticide patches. Pharmaceuticals leak from antibiotics in livestock, and euthanasia drugs given to pets are also included. Heavy metals accumulate from a variety of sources: pet ID tags, surgical pins and needles.

Even plastic winds up going into the pit. Unsold supermarket meats, chicken and fish arrive in styrofoam trays and shrink wrap. No one has time for the tedious chore of unwrapping thousands of rejected meat-packs. More plastic is added to the pits with the arrival of cattle ID tags, plastic insecticide patches and the green plastic bags containing pets from veterinarians. Skyrocketing labor costs are one of the economic factors forcing the corporate flesh-peddlers to cheat. It is far too costly for plant personnel to cut off flea collars or unwrap spoiled T-bone steaks. Every week, millions of packages of plastic-wrapped meat go through the rendering process and become one of the unwanted ingredients in animal feed.

The most environmentally conscious state in the nation is California, where spot checks and testing of animal-feed ingredients happen at the wobbly rate of once every two-and-a-half months. The supervising state agency is the Department of Agriculture"s Feed and Fertilizer Division of Compliance. Its main objective is to test for truth in labeling: does the percentage of protein

, phosphorous and calcium match the rendering plant's claims; do the percentages meet state requirements? However, testing for pesticides and other toxins in animal feeds is incomplete.

In California, eight field inspectors regulate a rendering industry that feeds the animals that the state's 30 million people eat. When it comes to rendering plants, however, state and federal agencies have maintained a hands-off policy, allowing the industry to become largely self-regulating. An article in the February 1990 issue of Render, the industry's national magazine, suggests that the self-regulation of certain contamination problems is not working.

One policing program that is already off to a shaky start is the Salmonella Education/Reduction Program, formed under the auspices of the National Renderers Association. The magazine states that '...unless US and Canadian renderers get their heads out of the ground and demonstrate that they are serious about reducing the incidence of salmonella contamination in their animal protein meals, they are going to be faced with... new and overly stringent government regulations.'

So far, the voluntary self-testing program is not working. According to the magazine, '...only about 20 per cent of the total number of companies producing or blending animal protein meal have signed up for the program..." Far fewer have done the actual testing. The American Journal of Veterinary Research conducted an investigation into the persistence of sodium phenobarbital in the carcasses of euthanised animals at a typical rendering plant in 1985 and found '... virtually no degradation of the drug occurred during this conventional rendering process..." and that '...the potential of other chemical contaminants (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides and environmental toxicants, which may cause massive herd mortalities) to degrade during conventional rendering needs further evaluation."

Renderers are the silent partners in our food chain. But worried insiders are beginning to talk, and one word that continues to come up in conversation is 'pesticides.' The possibility of petrochemically poisoning our food has become a reality. Government agencies and the industry itself are allowing toxins to be inadvertently recycled from the streets and supermarket shelves into the food chain. As we break into a new decade of increasingly complex pollution problems, we must rethink our place in the environment. No longer hunters, we are becoming the victims of our technologically altered food chain.

The possibility of petrochemically poisoning our food has become a reality.

Now, here are some other interesting things:

-A 1991 USDA report states that approximately 7.9 billion pounds of meat and bone meal, blood meal and feather meal [were] produced in 1983" Of that amount, 34 percent was used in pet food, 34 percent in poultry feed, 20 percent in pig food and ten percent in beef and dairy cattle feed. Scientific American cites a dramatic rise in the use of
animal protein in commercial dairy feed since 1987
-The cattle that so many folks eat every day not only fatten on the flesh of their fellows, but they also feed on the manure of other species. Feast your eyes on this information from the U.S. News and World Report: "Chicken manure in particular, which costs from $15 to $45 a ton in comparison with up to $125 a ton for alfalfa, is increasingly used as feed by cattle farmers despite possible health risks to consumers... more and more farmers are turning to chicken manure as a cheaper alternative to grains and hay.

The same story quotes farmer Lamar Carter, who feeds to his 800 head of cattle a witches" brew of soybean bran and chicken manure: "My cows are as fat as butterballs. If I didn't have chicken litter, I'd have to sell half my herd. Other feed's too expensive.

Farmer Carter doesn't mention this, but reporters Satchell and Hedges do: "Chicken manure often contains campylobacter and salmonella bacteria, which can cause disease in humans, as well as intestinal parasites, veterinary drug residues, and toxic heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury. These bacteria and toxins are passed on to the cattle and can be cycled to humans who eat beef contaminated by feces during slaughter."

-If they're not being fed on rendered by-products or chicken manure, according to the Satchell and Hedges article, "Animal-feed manufacturers and farmers also have begun using or trying out dehydrated food garbage, fats emptied from restaurant fryers and grease traps, cement-kiln dust, even newsprint and cardboard that are derived from plant cellulose. Researchers in addition have experimented with cattle and hog manure, and human sewage sludge. New feed additives are being introduced so fast, says Daniel McChesney, head of animal-feed safety for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, that the government cannot keep pace with new regulations to cover them.

-Cattle, hog manure and human sewage sludge as possible foods for the animals, ALL eaten by human beings.
Just another little nail in the coffin!

About Rendering Plants

"Mad cow outbreak may have been caused by animal rendering plants"

N.Y. Times News Service Mar 11, 1997

When cows in Britain began staggering around and dying, their brains eaten away by a mysterious disease, officials in the United States were reassuring. The disease would not be a problem here, they said. Later, when it appeared that a few people in Britain had contracted a similar lethal condition from eating affected meat, experts at the Department of Agriculture said there was no reason for Americans to worry.

Now, though, the Food and Drug Administration is starting to talk about new regulations in the aftermath of disturbing hints that something similar conceivably could appear in American animals. So far, the only affected animals are a few hundred mink in Wisconsin. Nevertheless, the agency wants to restrict the little-known agricultural practice that lies behind the problem in Britain: the use of rendered animal tissue in animal feed. In the process, they are drawing new attention to rendering -- the ancient but seldom-discussed practice of boiling down and making feed meal and other products out of slaughterhouse and restaurant scraps, dead farm animals, road kill and -- distasteful as it may seem -- cats and dogs euthanized in some animal shelters.
This quasi-cannibalism lies behind the outbreak in Britain and regulators want to be sure it will not cause problems in the United States. The disease that struck the British cows, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, may have originated as scrapie, a mysterious condition limited to sheep. Scientists believe the so-called mad cow disease results when cattle eat feed made from the brains or spinal cords of sheep suffering from scrapie. They believe the people who died were infected when they ate beef or other products from these cows, a theory that remains controversial, though evidence is accumulating.

Public health officials and agricultural experts say there are good reasons to believe that mad cow disease will not become a problem in the United States. Scrapie is less common in this country than in Britain. More importantly, the Food and Drug Administration is moving to ban the use of certain animal tissues in cattle feed. The agency recently held hearings on the effects that such a ban might have on the billion-dollar industry and hopes to decide this year whether to impose a ban.

Rendering, which dates to the early Egyptians, operates in the shadows of polite society, persisting because it provides an essential service: disposing of millions of pounds of dead animals every day.
"If you burned all the carcasses, you'd get a terrible air pollution problem," said Dr. William Heuston, associate dean of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at College Park, Md. "If you put it all into landfills, you'd have a colossal public health problem, not to mention stench. Dead animals are an ideal medium for bacterial growth."

Renderers in the United States pick up 100 million pounds of waste material every day -- a witch's brew of feet, heads, stomachs, intestines, hooves, spinal cords, tails, grease, feathers and bones. Half of every butchered cow and a third of every pig is not consumed by humans. An estimated six million to seven million dogs and cats are killed in animal shelters each year, said Jeff Frace, a spokesman for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York City.

For example, the city of Los Angeles sends 200 tons of euthanized cats and dogs to West Coast Rendering, in Los Angeles, every month, according to Chuck Ellis, a spokesman for the city's Sanitation Department. Pet food companies try not to buy meat and bone meal from renderers who grind up cats and dogs, said Doug Anderson, president of Darling International Inc., a large rendering company in Dallas. "We do not accept companion animals," he said. "But there are still a number of small plants that will render anything."
At least 250 rendering plants operate in the United States, said Bruce Blanton, executive director of the 130-member National Renderers Association in Alexandria, Va. While there are still a few small operations on the outskirts of some cities, he said, modern rendering plants are large and centralized, and the industry's revenues amount to $2.4 billion a year.

After trucks deliver the wastes to the plants, the material is minced and fed into a vessel where it is steam-cooked to 250 degrees or more, and then the stew is cooked for 20 to 90 minutes, Blanton said. In the resulting mash, heavier material drops to the bottom and the lighter stuff floats to the top. Fat is siphoned off the top, filtered and sent through centrifuges to further refine it, Blanton said. Chemical manufacturers turn much of it into fatty acids for lubricants, lipstick, cement, polish, inks and waxes. Other fractions, including gelatinous layers, tallow and grease, go into thousands of products, including

soaps, candles, pharmaceuticals, homeopathic medicines and gummy candies. The heavier protein material on the bottom goes through a separate process, Blanton said. It is dried, squeezed to remove more fat and dried again. The resulting powder is the major ingredient in pet and animal feed. It is a

cannibalistic practice that has proved highly profitable.

"We are the original recyclers," said Dr. Don A. Franco, a veterinarian and director of scientific services for the Animal Protein Producers' Industry, another trade group representing rendering firms. "We recycle 40 billion pounds of material a year."

Mad cow disease erupted in Britain because of a number of factors there, said Dr. Linda Detweiler, a veterinarian with the United States Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Trenton. Unlike the United States, Britain has a large sheep population relative to cows and a serious problem with scrapie, a transmissible, slowly progressive degenerative brain disease of sheep.

Many scientists who have studied the problem now believe that scrapie somehow crossed a species barrier to infect cows, possibly when the cows ate feed composed in part of brain tissue from infected sheep. The disease presumably jumped to people who ate infected cow brains. Current theory holds that some people may have genes that make them particularly susceptible.
Mad cow disease was first recognized as a cattle disorder in November 1986. Since then more than 165,000 cows have been affected. Heuston said renderers were shocked to learn that an agent like scrapie might survive the rendering process.

But British rendering practices may have helped spread the disease, said David Evans, president of Carolina Byproducts, a rendering company in Greensboro, N.C. There are people in Britain, called knackers, who make a living going around the countryside picking up dead animals and rendering them in their backyards. The fat they obtain brings good money from chemical firms, he said.

These knackers simply grind up and partly cook their daily haul to break fat cells and collect the gunk from the top of their vats. The remaining material, called greaves or crackling, was sold to farmers who then mixed it with grain and fed it to their animals. This material, some derived from sheep with scrapie or cattle with mad cow disease, was fed in large amounts to dairy herds in the late 1980s, Detweiler said.

Yet another factor lay in the way greaves were processed in conventional rendering plants, Anderson said. Until the early 1980s, many renderers had used flammable solvents to dissolve fats and the solvents may have deactivated the agent that causes mad cow disease and scrapie. But after several plant explosions, the companies switched to other methods that appear not to deactivate

the agent -- a mysterious particle called a prion.

Since 1989, British renderers have tried to keep infected meat out of their products, many knackers have gone out of business and brains are no longer put into hamburger. But the incubation for the human disease is 7 to 30 years, Evans said. While only 15 cases of human disease have been confirmed, many experts fear a latent epidemic.

In 1989, the American rendering industry initiated a voluntary program under which, for example, no sheep heads were to be accepted at rendering plants. An Agriculture Department survey three years later found that 6 of 11 plants inspected still did accept sheep heads. Nevertheless, many experts feel that American shores are safe from mad cow disease, especially if scrapie is the underlying vector. In Britain, sheep account for 14 percent of raw rendering material. Here it is 0.6 percent and most of that material is free from scrapie.

The reason is that scrapie is closely monitored by United States Agriculture Department veterinarians under a federal program. There are no knackers in this country and no greaves to infect cattle, Detweiler said. Few ranchers here feed meat and bone meal to young cows and American renderers usually treat the raw material at higher temperatures.

But the key element in efforts to prevent the cow disease is a newly proposed Agriculture Department ban on feeding protein derived from ruminant animals to other ruminants. Ruminants are animals that chew cuds, including cows, sheep, goats, deer and elk. Mink are included in the ban because they can be affected by a disorder similar to mad cow disease.

If the Agriculture Department rules are adopted, cow protein might still be fed to fish, chicken or pigs in hope that if mad cow disease were to appear, a species barrier would stop it from spreading. At the same time, the Agriculture Department continues to monitor American cows for signs of mad cow disease. Scientists have examined the brains of 5,342 cows that displayed symptoms of central nervous system disease; no cases have been discovered.

But a major reason to worry is that the cow epidemic may have nothing to do with scrapie or the processing techniques used by renderers, said Dr. Richard F. Marsh, a veterinarian at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. There are reasons to believe that mad cow disease has

already risen spontaneously in American cattle, he said. But it apparently has not jumped into the animal feed supply at this point.

The strongest evidence is an outbreak of mink encephalopathy (a disorder similar to mad cow disease) that occurred in 1985 in Stetsonville, Wis. The mink farmer did not feed commercial meal to his animals, Marsh said. Rather he fed them the meat from a downer cow, a cow that is down and cannot get up. It is possible that the cow had a spontaneous case of mad cow disease and passed it into mink, Marsh said.

Spontaneous cases of mad cow disease may well occur in one cow out of every million cows each year, said Dr. Joseph Gibbs, a leading expert on mad cow disease at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Md. There are 150 million cows in this country, which means that each year 150 of them might develop mad cow disease -- all on their own, without any exposure to tainted feed.

Renderers pick up the carcasses of 100,000 downer cows every year and mix them in with other animals, Marsh said. Although the Agriculture Department tries to test downer cows for signs of mad cow disease, it can only sample a small percentage. Moreover, animals can be quite sick and not show signs of it before they are sent to slaughter, Marsh said. Thus, try as they might to avoid the problem, renderers could unknowingly introduce infected animals into animal feed and start an epidemic.

Deer and elk also have a spontaneous mad-cow-like disease, Gibbs said. If they die in the woods, the disease would not be transmitted. But if they are killed on the road, they are sent to zoos or greyhound tracks or, more often, go straight to the rendering plant to end up as cattle feed or pet food.

A LOOK INSIDE A RENDERING PLANT

by Gar Smith

Rendering has been called "the silent industry". Each year in the US, 286 rendering plants quietly dispose of more than 12.5 million tons of dead animals, fat and meat wastes. As the public relations watchdog newsletter PR Watch observes, renderers "are thankful that most people remain blissfully unaware of their existence".

When City Paper reporter Van Smith visited Baltimore's Valley Proteins rendering plant last summer, he found that the "hoggers" (the large vats used to grind and filter animal tissues prior to deep-fat-frying) held an eclectic mix of body parts ranging from "dead dogs, cats, raccoons, possums, deer, foxes [and] snakes" to a "baby circus elephant" and the remains of Bozeman, a Police Department quarterhorse that "died in the line of duty".

In an average month, Baltimore's pound hands over 1,824 dead animals to Valley Proteins. Last year, the plant transformed 150 millions pounds of decaying flesh and kitchen grease into 80 million pounds of commercial meat and bone meal, tallow and yellow grease. Thirty years ago, most of the renderer's wastes came from small markets and slaughterhouses. Today, thanks to the proliferation of fast-food restaurants, nearly half the raw material is kitchen grease and frying oil.

Recycling dead pets and wildlife into animal food is "a very small part of the business that we don't like to advertise," Valley Proteins' President, J. J. Smith, told City Paper. The plant processes these animals as a "public service, not for profit," Smith said, since "there is not a lot of protein and fat [on pets]..., just a lot of hair you have to deal with somehow."

According to City Paper, Valley Proteins "sells inedible animal parts and rendered material to Alpo, Heinz and Ralston-Purina". Valley Proteins insists that it does not sell "dead pet by-products" to pet food firms since "they are all very sensitive to the recycled pet potential". Valley Proteins maintains two production lines;one for clean meat and bones and a second line for dead pets and wildlife. However, Van Smith reported, "the protein material is a mix from both production lines. Thus the meat and bone meal made at the plant includes materials from pets and wildlife, and about five per cent of that product goes to dry-pet-food manufacturers..."

A 1991 USDA report states that "approximately 7.9 billion pounds of meat and bone meal, blood meal and feather meal [were] produced in 1983". Of that amount, 34 per cent was used in pet food, 34 per cent in poultry feed, 20 per cent in pig food and 10 per cent in beef and dairy cattle feed.

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) carried in pig- and chicken-laden foods may eventually eclipse the threat of "mad cow disease". The risk of household pet exposure to TSE from contaminated pet food is more than three times greater than the risk for hamburger-eating humans. Meat consumption leaves an acidic residue and a diet of acid forming foods requires the body to balance its pH by withdrawing calcium from the bones and teeth. So even if we consume enough calcium, a high protein, meat based diet will

cause calcium to be leached from our bodies.

As children we were taught to eat from the "Four Food Groups". This was merely a marketing concoction by the joint efforts of the Meat and Dairy Associations (which are VERY BIG business) to sell their products.

According to John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton's article, "The US 'Mad Cow' Cover-Up." Stauber and Sheldon write, "For seven years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the multi-billion dollar animal livestock industry have cooperated in a PR cover-up of huge health risks to U.S. animals and people.

For ten years preceding the outbreak of Mad Cow Disease in Britain, the USDA had scientific evidence that a version of the disease existed in U.S. cattle. Yet government and industry have failed, even at this late date, to ban the practice of 'cow cannibalism.'

The practice, prohibited in Britain for years, continues throughout the U.S. It is, in fact, more widespread in the U.S. than in any other country. And, as USDA researcher Dr. Mark Robinson points out, 'the rendering processes employed in the UK and the US are virtually the same.' The USDA confirms that, for decades, scrapie-infected sheep have passed through U.S. rendering plants.'

After a decade of official denials, the British government finally admitted that Mad Cow Disease -- responsible for the deaths of more than 160,000 British cattle -- appeared to have migrated into humans who ate contaminated beef and are now dying of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

The British government's acknowledgment that infected beef was the likely cause of death for ten unusually young CJD victims came as grim vindication to Dr. Richard Lacey, a leading British microbiologist whose increasingly desperate warnings that the BSE threat was 'more serious than AIDS' have been officially dismissed for the past six years.

Dr. Lacey predicts that the government's failure to act sooner, combined with the disease's long latency period, could produce 5,000-500,000 human deaths per year in Britain sometime after the year 2000.

Internal documents and PR plans obtained by PR Watch, via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) investigation, show that the U.S. government has sought to protect the economic interests of the powerful meat and animal feed industries, while denying the existence of risks to animals and human.

In a 1991 internal PR document, the USDA advised officials to use the technical name for the disease. 'The term "Mad Cow Disease" has been detrimental,' the document explained. 'We should emphasize the need to use the term "bovine spongiform encephalopathy" or "BSE."

Mad Cow Disease apparently became an epidemic in England as a result of 'rendering plants' -- factories that melt carcasses and waste meat products into protein used in animal feeds, cosmetics, nutritional supplements, medicines, and other products. As little as one teaspoon of feed derived from infected cattle can transmit the disease to another cow.

In the U.S., plants process billions of pounds of protein from dead cows, sheep, pigs, chickens and other animals into animal feed each year.

In 1990, the USDA and FDA convened a committee dominated by the cattle, dairy, sheep, and rendering industries. They launched a 'voluntary ban' on feeding rendered cows to cows. This was simply a PR maneuver. A similar voluntary ban failed miserably in Britain. The feeding of ruminant protein to cows continues at a rate of millions of pounds per day.

U.S. government and industry representatives still insist that Mad Cow Disease does not exist in the U.S. Unfortunately, this party line is based on wishful thinking, rather than scientific proof.

A major U.S. outbreak seems plausible, even likely, unless the U.S. government acts swiftly to outlaw the practice of feeding rendered by-product protein to cows. Has a meat borne form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease already spread into the U.S. human population? Despite denials from the federal government, a number of statistically alarming clusters of CJD already have been reported in the U.S. In the past, victims of CJD have been misdiagnosed with Alzheimer's -- a disease afflicting some four million Americans. The beginnings of a CJD epidemic could, therefore, already be hidden within the country's huge population of dementia patients.

As usual, though, in this country, the bottom line boils down to money and not the public good. In another USDA internal document from 1991, entitled "BSE Rendering Policy," we read: "There is speculation... that a spongiform encephalopathy agent is present in the U.S. cattle population." The report concluded that "prohibit[ing] the feeding of sheep and cattle origin protein products to all ruminants... minimizes the risk of BSE. The disadvantage is that the cost to the livestock and rendering industries would be substantial."

In Michael Greger's groundbreaking article, "The Public Health Implications of Mad Cow Disease," we learn: "With scientists like Marsh saying 'The exact same thing could happen over here as happened in Britain,' and with beef consumption already at a thirty-year low, the USDA is justifiably worried. There was even a complaint filed with the FDA concerning a woman with CJD who had been taking a dietary supplement containing bovine tissue. Like England, we have been feeding dead cows to living cows for decades. In fact, here in the U.S. a minimum of 14% of the remains of rendered cattle is fed to other cows (another 50% goes on the pig and chicken menu). In 1989 alone, almost 800 million pounds of processed animal were fed to beef and dairy cattle. Partly because of this, the USDA has conceded that 'the potential risk of amplification of the BSE agent is much greater in the United States' than in Britain.

"... Four million Americans are affected by Alzheimer's; it is the fourth leading cause of death among the elderly in the U.S. Epidemiological evidence suggests that people eating meat more than four times a week for a prolonged period have a three times higher chance of suffering a dementia than long-time vegetarians. A preliminary 1989 study at the University of Pennsylvania showed that over 5% of patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's were actually dying from a human spongiform encephalopathy. That means that as many as 200,000 people in the United States may already be dying from mad cow disease each year."

The cattle that so many folks eat every day not only fatten on the flesh of their fellows, but they also feed on the manure of other species. Feast your eyes on this information from the U.S. News and World Report: "Chicken manure in particular, which costs from $15 to $45 a ton in comparison with up to $125 a ton for alfalfa, is increasingly used as feed by cattle farmers despite possible health risks to consumers... more and more farmers are turning to chicken manure as a cheaper alternative to grains and hay."

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(Gar Smith is Editor of Earth Island Journal.)

Words **Dead Cows I've Known**

By Ted Oliphant III. Copyright 1997

Recently the British Secretary of Health admitted that Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or "Mad Cow Disease" may be a species jumper. This means that humans exposed to animals with BSE, can also contract it. This announcement set off a panic, with many countries (Most Notably France, Belgium, Germany and The United States) announcing boycotts of all British beef. There was serious consideration given to destroying all eleven million head of British cattle. But how do you dispose of 11,000,000 dead cows?

Some projections for the year 2010, suggest that up to 200,000 people could be affected each year from Mad Cow Disease related Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD). This is in Great Britain alone. People don't die from Mad Cow Disease, but from CJD after BSE infection.

What is Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease?

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease ("CJD") is a rare, fatal brain disorder which causes a rapid, progressive dementia and associated neuromuscular disturbances. The disease is often referred to as a sub acute spongiform encephalopathy because it usually produces microscopic vacuoles in neurons that appear "sponge-like". * Under the microscope, you can see "holes" in brain tissue. CJD, BSE and other Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies are now referred to as "Prion" diseases, but there is still much debate in both the medical and scientific communities.

In addition to CJD, these suspected human "Prion" diseases include Kuru, Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker disease and Fatal Familial Insomnia. Kuru was originally found only among the Fore tribe in Papua, New Guinea and has been significantly reduced since the cessation of the ritual handling and eating of the brains of deceased relatives. Kuru is not eliminated, but only reduced to a nearly normal level. The different names for these various prion diseases have historical reasons, but they all are variations of CJD.

Among the first symptoms of the human prion diseases are visual disturbances and changes in skin sensation. There are also psychological changes. The disease is characterized by progressive problems with coordination which are typically followed by dementia. Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker disease and fatal familial insomnia are predominantly hereditary disorders with the former usually marked by progressive coordination and movement problems and the latter evidenced by sleeping problems preceding dementia. The suspected prion diseases occurring in animals consist of: Scrapie in sheep and goats (The pre-cursor to BSE); Transmissible Mink Encephalopathy; Chronic Wasting Disease of mule deer and elk; Feline Spongiform Encephalopathy and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

On March 20, 1996, the British Government, in a complete reversal of its previous position, stated that there was a possible link between BSE and CJD. This new acknowledgment arose from the identification of an apparently new strain of CJD which was discovered in 10 people under the age of 42, including some teenagers. Additionally, five of the people were associated with the meat and livestock industry. Scientists advising the British Government decided that the most likely explanation for this unusual outbreak was the consumption of beef from diseased cattle before 1989, when regulations were adopted for the disposal of potentially infectious cattle offal, including brains, and the use of sheep entrails as feed ceased.*

On November 10, 1997 in England, Professor John Pattison, Chairman of the British Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Board announced on BBC TV's Panorama program; that the National Blood Supply could be contaminated with a "New" human strain of mad cow disease. "It's still impossible to say with any accuracy but there could be quite significant numbers of people incubating new variant CJD, raising the possibility that these people could be donating infected blood to the national stocks," he said.

At the present time, the only proven manner for contracting CJD from an infected person has been through iatrogenic transmission, an unintended consequence of a medical procedure using tainted human matter or surgical instruments. Iatrogenic transmission of CJD has occurred in cases involving corneal

transplants, implantation of electrodes in the brain, dura matter grafts, contaminated surgical instruments and the injection of natural human growth hormone derived from cadaveric pituitaries. Thus, one may become infected with CJD from direct contamination with infected neural tissue.*

There are new, strict guidelines for the handling of suspected BSE, CJD and Kuru infected tissues. Once a brain biopsy is completed, surgical instruments, scalpels and the like, are disposed of because sterilization will not kill the Prions, or proteins. This raises the question of how many times before the new guidelines were instituted, were contaminated surgical instruments used from patient to patient? Prions can not be killed, because they are not living beings. Heat sterilization does reduce the infectivity by several orders of magnitude, but the reduction is NOT total.

BSE & CJD have the potential to become Doomsday Diseases, they are very hard to detect and there is no cure or treatment. Neither is it known how many different places it could pop up: blood supplies, food supplies etc.

How did this happen & where did it come from?

The main suspicion traces the un-natural practice of feeding vegetarian animals "Rendered" food made of contaminated animals who are found dead. Rendered foods come from "Rendering plants" like the Avon plant in Geraldine, Alabama. There are hundreds of these plants throughout the United States and the world. The problem is the feeding of infectious material, but not only to vegetarian animals. This practice was also lethal for several wild cats in British zoos, and the mink populations in the United States.

What goes on at a rendering plant?

Rendering plants act as an animal disposal unit for dead livestock. Instead of burning and disposing of dead animals, they are converted to animal feeds. I visited the Avon plant in 1993 and witnessed this process, where nothing is wasted. Area farmers and ranchers are invited to drop off any dead farm animal. The animals are crushed up in large mulchers and poured into enormous high pressure vats where they are cooked into multi-animal stew. The stew is further processed until it is packaged and sold to area farmers as livestock feed. I've witnessed pigs, goats, cows and horses brought to rendering plants. The animals were in various conditions. Some had been dead for over 24 hours, yet were still rendered into livestock feed. None of these animals are checked for disease or illness before they enter the food chain. Shockingly, many cows that been found "mutilated", (missing various glands, tissue and organs) were brought to these rendering factories and processed into food for

their still living relatives. I was shocked, but unlike Great Britain which has had protections against such practices since 1989, there are no such guidelines here in the United States.

What is the prospect for Mad Cow Disease to appear in the United States?

That is THE question several of us are asking, what does our government know and what aren't they telling us? The first case of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease appeared in the 1890's, was finally identified in 1920 and first considered contagious during the identification and study of Kuru in the 1950's though it was, at that time, thought to be fully contained. However the identification of contaminated surgical instruments as a transport mechanism raises a bigger question...how many surgeries used contaminated scalpels?

The incubation period for BSE and CJD can range from six months to beyond 40 years. However, the incubation time can be very much longer. That means that if you ingested contaminated meat prior to becoming a vegetarian, you can still get sick many years down the road.
This isn't the first time animal parts introduced into the food chain, caused illness and death. Thyrotoxicosis (New England Journal of Medicine, Hedburg CW, Fishbein DB et all 316: 993-8, 1987) occurred when bovine thyroid glands were combined with hamburger meat and distributed throughout many communities. This caused over 100,000 people to get sick. Finally the Center for Disease Control (CDC) investigated and concluded that large doses of bovine thyroid hormone in hamburger meat, was the culprit. Here's what happened. For years the US Government bought every bovine thyroid gland it could get it's hands on for research. As a result, every meat packing plant in America was removing the thyroids and selling them to Uncle Sam for top dollar. Then all of the sudden, our government stopped buying them. Meat packing plants and butchers starting grinding up the glands and mixing them with our hamburger. That practice has, for the most part, been stopped thanks to the CDC.

The U.S. Army, The National Institute of Health (NIH) & Rocky Mountain Labs

Quietly and secretly, The United States Army and the Center For Disease Control have worked together, off & on, for years. A perfect example of this clandestine cooperation was the outbreak and containment of Ebola Reston. You can learn more about this in an excellent book "The Hot Zone". The Army & The CDC entered the Reston monkey houses, took care of business and were gone before anybody knew what happened. They showed up in

civilian clothes, and un-marked vans. All of this was done right under the noses of television camera crews who were looking around, but never saw them because the Army & CDC hid their vehicles behind buildings! Currently another organization, The National Institute of Health (NIH) has been tasked with tracking and studying something even more frightening: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies and other Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs). Much of the research has been conducted at Rocky Mountain Labs. Originally it was thought that a foreign power might be trying to contaminate the American food supply. Instead they discovered a new variation of TSEs. But TSEs are no new biological evolution, in fact they are much older than the primates.

The funding for this research is hidden in the NIH's black budget for the study of AIDS. Neither AIDS or BSE are viruses, rather they are the consequences of immune systems that have been thwarted. The research has been kept quiet to prevent an outbreak of panic. But the cats out of the bag, all of us are in the same boat. Every American who's ever eaten meat has potentially been exposed to our new, common threat: Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies.

Over the last ten years, law enforcement in dozens of States have been trying to track and identify unmarked helicopters sighted where area livestock have been discovered dead under suspicious circumstances. The helicopters are seen before and after these cows are found in pastures, missing certain organs. The same things are always taken. Bovine jaws are stripped to the bone, reproductive organs removed, entire tongues, digestive tracks and rectums are "cored" out. There is little to no blood at the scene. Many tissue samples taken by police investigators and analyzed at veterinary labs, show signs of exposure to heat, three hundred degrees or more. The tissue is cooked and the incisions are cauterized by the heat. This prevents blood and other fluids from leeching onto the ground. Everything taken has to do with input, output and reproduction. In recent mutilation cases, Alabama 1993 & 1994, California 1996 and Florida 1997; pharmaceuticals have been found in bovine blood. They are: Barbiturates, Anti-coagulants, Synthetic Amphetamines, Aluminum-Titanium-Oxygen-Silicon flakes, and Antimony (Antimony: A brittle lustrous white metallic element occurring in nature, free or combined, used chiefly in alloys and in compounds in medicine. Webster's). According to recent police reports, some investigating officers have claimed that the concentrations of drugs found are not of veterinary nature, that the are pharmaceutical concentrations found would be more associated with humans. Among those law enforcement agents who have thoroughly investigated these bovine excision sites, there is a consensus that some kind of medical testing going on. The additional presence of helicopters on scene, before and

after cattle are found dead missing specific organs, leads both victimized farmers and investigating officers to conclude that there is a connection. But why use human drugs on cows? Use your imagination.

Every organ taken from affected livestock has to do with input, output and reproduction. Where entire jaws have been excised in large, oval excisions, the bone is exposed and is perfectly clean. The wounds have been cauterized and there is no presence of blood. The jaw is an important area, particularly because enzymes produced in human saliva glands can kill viruses and bacteria. Though it's not the case in animals, we wonder why similar things are taken? The digestive track also acts as a filter, that absorbs, collects and stores traces of any chemical or toxin introduced. The rectum is a similar filter, as are ears. They store traces of toxins and chemicals like a library. This is true in humans and animals. So far there are no known cases of inherited BSE, but the reproductive system may be a good place to find look for clues on how TSEs pass to the next generation.

In 1993, I got a call from a man who told me that if I went to a certain place on a certain evening, I would see several helicopters land and refuel. He was right. Well after dark, two Chinook helicopters (The large twin rotor type) landed in the field behind some trees and carrying black plastic fuel bladders. Minutes later several smaller scout helicopters landed nearby, shut down and crews from the Chinooks walked over with large hoses and refueled each of a half dozen helicopters. The whole operation took less than 30 minutes and the Chinook helicopters took off and headed across the border where we tracked them to their home base, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Now we knew who they were but we couldn't figure out why they refueled on Sand Mountain. The next morning a reporter, Steven Smith from the Rainsville Weekly Post, called the Public Affairs Officer, Captain William Gibbons of the 101st Airborne and asked if they might've been in our area the previous evening. "We have no aircraft in your area, it wasn't us" said the captain. It certainly was. So we knew then that some kind of secret operation was being conducted, but we didn't know what it was. We still don't, but when you look at each piece of evidence and try to use them as puzzle pieces, these so called "cattle mutilations" might be associated with government studies of epidemiology. With BSE & CJD and many other diseases being so devastating, is it possible than many alleged cases of "cattle mutilations" are actually evidence of our tax dollars at work?

The Evidence Suppression Team from Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama; & The F.A.A. Investigation of un-marked helicopters over Sand Mountain.

The 101st Airborne Division is not suspected of being directly involved in the cattle mutilations that occurred between Oct. 1992 through May of 1993. But is seems possible they may have refueled the other witnessed un-marked helicopters that we eventually traced to Maxwell Air Force Base. The 101st's inability to tell the truth about where they had been, seems to be a constant in Federal Government employee behavior: You don't tell the truth unless somebody holds a gun to your head.

When un-marked helicopters were witnessed by local farmers and law enforcement officers, Albertville Police's Chief of Detectives Tommy Cole called in the Federal Aviation Administration to investigate. Detective Cole had lost a cow to the phantom surgeons and his wife had seen an un-marked helicopter over their pasture January 8th, 1993; the day before they discovered one of their Black Angus steers mutilated. An FAA investigator came to Albertville and Cole took him for a ride in his police car. The FAA investigator was skeptical until an un-marked helicopter flew near them. The FAA investigator couldn't believe his own eyes and pulled out a hand held radio and hailed the helicopter. The helicopter pilot didn't respond and ignored demands that he identify himself. This infuriated the FAA investigator who had now reversed his skepticism. He was able to trace the helicopter to Maxwell Air Force Base in Southern Alabama. When he launched an inquiry at the base, he was immediately told to drop it and never talk about again. A week later Chief Detective Cole received a call after midnight, it was the FAA investigator. It seems that while out in a boat on nearby Lake Guntersville, he and his family had witnessed a large triangle shaped craft flying maneuvers above them. I wonder if he ever reported that to his superiors?

There's something very wrong at the Barton Ranch in Red Bluff, California.

Bill & Jean Barton have been cattle ranchers all their lives. Jean's family has owned the same 1,600 acre cattle ranch in Northern California for over a hundred years. They have always been cattle ranchers, they have lived simple, normal lives most of that time. Then, something terrible happened on Oct. 16, 1995. Something that would change their lives forever. of their cows were found dead on their land near Eagle Lake. It was found missing teats from the udder, it's jaw had been stripped and an ear was missing. Then it happened again, and again and again. By the time the first year had passed, the Barton's

had lost four head of livestock. Then, exactly one year from the first grizzly discovery, it happened again. On Oct. 16, 1996 a cow was found missing it's entire udder, it's rectum had been cut out and it's jaw was also missing.

The Barton's had never seen anything like this before, not in a lifetime of raising cattle. But the nightmare wasn't, isn't over. By the end 1996, the Barton's had lost seven more head under the exact same circumstances. This brought the head-count to eleven. In March 2, 1997 I received a call from Jean Barton asking me to come investigate suspicious cattle death number 14. When I and another investigator, Stan Musselman, arrived at the ranch, Jean took us to the crime scene. This cow had been dead for three days, It was in a state of typical decomposition. That's the problem when you own such a large ranch, you can't police it. It might be two days before you discover something wrong. It turned into a recipe for certain disaster, and the circumstances and logistics, ensured the Barton's continual victimization.

There was blow fly larvae under the cows left front shoulder. There was the attendant smell of rotting flesh. I had learned early on, to stand up-wind of bovine carcasses. I learned that important lesson fast, when I first examined similar cases in Alabama in 1992 & 1993. If you don't stand up-wind, you'll get sick quick. This cow looked identical to what I'd witnessed, over and over, thirty five times before on Alabama ranches. Under the right front shoulder, there was an eight inch diameter circle of flesh and udder missing. The udder was missing. Their was an enormous gaping hole where the rectum and vagina had been. It measured over ten inches across. Where the udder had once been, there was an even larger incision which lead halfway down the right rear leg. The leg muscle had been removed all the way to the bone. Then I saw something I'd seen once before.

Along the edges of the incision I could see a swirling, stepped and notched cut made by something similar to pinking shears. Again there was no blood on the incisions where hide, muscle and organs had been extricated. Deja-Vu, I might as well have been back in Alabama. The same damn thing, over and over and over again. "What the hell is going on?" Stanley and I asked each other. The animal was "too far gone" to order an autopsy, or If we had known sooner, within hours of the animal's death, we could have learned more. What else had been "done" to this poor animal? The Barton's used to make a simple, honest living. Now, with the substantial economic loss they've sustained, they aren't even allowed that "luxury". These ranchers cannot afford this, it's killing their cattle, their business and most importantly, them. Surely they deserve better, but who will help them end their agony? Who will answer the question of what's happening to their cows? They deserve an answer, just like the ranchers who have found themselves in a similar predicament, over the last 34 years. What makes the Bar-

ton cases so unusual, is their

sheer number. I have never heard of anyone being victimized 15 times in two years. There's something very wrong at the Barton Ranch, but what? There's a number of reason's why it's safe for me to make the following statement..."If you've had fifteen mutilations on your ranch, in two years, you've got a problem".

What might that reason be? Are devil worshippers performing surgery on your animals in time for their monthly celebrations? Or are aliens visiting you for snack food? Is this the work of coyotes? Or is it your tax dollars are work? If it isn't the devil worshippers, and if it isn't the aliens, and the coyotes have an alibi , what does that leave us with? I'm a student of Arthur Conan Doyle, and his alter-ego Sherlock Holmes. I must conclude, as they did, that after you have ruled everything else out, what you are left with MUST be the answer. My personal choice has to be "Your tax dollars at work". But why are they at work on the Barton Ranch? What's the attraction? By August of 1997, The Barton's ranch had fallen prey to the same phantom surgeons for the fifteenth time. Fifteen mutilations on the same ranch? Why? There's something very wrong at the Barton ranch, but what?

In the United States, something strange is happening at the Mexican Border.

All of the sudden truck-loads of un-healthy looking cows are being shipped into America. Forty-thousand a month. Where are they coming from?, is Mexico producing nearly a half million cattle a year for export? Or are they coming from somewhere else? Nobody seems to know, but it makes me nervous.

I don't pretend to know the solution to either the bovine excision cases nor the appearance of the mystery helicopters. I don't know where the "Mexican" cattle are really coming from. I don't know that America faces a threat from BSE, but I do feel that these questions deserve our attention. President Ronald Reagan once hypothesized: "What if one day we all found that we faced a common threat from outer space, wouldn't we all put aside our differences and work together?". President Reagan wasn't so far off, today we DO face a common threat, soon we'll realize that we all have something in common: possible exposure to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies and a host of other disease like we've never seen before.

If you have any information, pertinent speculations, criticisms or a rebuttal to this draft, please contact me. I would like to correct any mistakes before the final manuscript is published in book form..

*Courtesy of the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Research Foundation.

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The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.) July 10, 2001 Tuesday

The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.)

July 10, 2001 Tuesday 1ST EDITION

SECTION: CITY; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 748 words

HEADLINE: Residents complain about polluted air from N.C. factory

BYLINE: By Jason Cato / The Herald

Nadara Andrews wakes up some nights with a hacking cough, her nose and throat burning, her eyes red, irritated and swollen.

The 71-year-old Bowling Green resident has been suffering the same symptoms for years and she says there's nothing she can do about it. Her condition isn't the result of a medical ailment; she blames a factory that's less than a mile away.

Carolina By-Product Resources, an animal rendering plant located a half-mile across the state line, wedged between Crowders Creek and the city limits of Gastonia, N.C., has been recycling the scrambled remains of animals from slaughter houses throughout the Carolinas for more than half a century.

Under the motto "Recycling, the nature of our business," the 55-year-old company cooks nutrient-rich chicken and turkey waste down to a fine powder and sells it to pet and livestock feed companies. The gooey fat that is produced during the rendering process is sold to cosmetics companies to put the shine in lipstick.

York County residents in Bowling Green, a community near Clover, have complained for years that the plant also produces a nauseating stench - akin to the odor of rotten eggs and decomposing flesh - that drastically affects their quality of life.

"It's inexcusable that any business can park right across the state line and take advantage of South Carolina," Andrews said. "We're having to smell rotten flesh, and it is literally intolerable. This company does not have the right to soil the air we breathe."

While North Carolina environmental officials say the smells naturally get worse in warmer months, they say odors have increased because the boiler responsible for controlling odors has not worked in nearly three weeks.

Cited for violations

The company was cited on June 21 for violating North Carolina's visual emissions code by emitting more than 20 percent of its allowed pollutants. N. C. Department of Environ-mental and Natural Resources, (DENR) officials said the company then informed them that the liner inside the boiler used for odor control had collapsed and that the apparatus was unusable. The company has been using a secondary biofilter since then, but a company official said it doesn't work well with higher temperatures.

Michael Smith, vice president of Valley Protein, CBP's parent company in Winchester, Va., said a December fire at CBP caused more than $ 2 million in damage and left the company unable to repair the boiler until it receives a settlement from its insurance company. "We've had to learn to live with this, and that's sad," said Gastonia resident Richard Penegar. "But the biggest problem is getting the state to do anything about it."

N.C. Department of Air Quality records show that the company has been fined nearly $ 28,000 since May 2000. In addition, a surprise inspection in March netted the company 160 violations, a figure state officials called "excessively high." While some of these violations were on administrative procedures, more than 100 were for violations of the state's 24-hour storage rule. This rule allows companies to keep by-products outside for no more than 24 hours after delivery.

Fines have not yet been levied for the latest infractions, but Michael Landis, a regional supervisor with DENR, said they will "probably be more than pocket change.

"There's going to be a substantial penalty," he added, "because they've done this before."

Given that, Landis also said conditions at the factory have improved drastically since Valley Protein bought the company three years ago. "They have gotten a lot better," Landis said, "but it takes an extra effort to come up with no violations." Smith said his company has worked diligently to improve CBP's reputation since taking over, including retraining all employees, trying to conform with new regulations and making plans to install more efficient air scrubbers at the plant. Still, he maintained that the company does more good than harm. "The nature of our business is not to be 100 percent odor free," Smith said, "but we do strive to have a certain level of comfort. We want to be good neighbors and keep an open relationship with the community, but that's hard to do sometimes because some people don't want to be open." Andrews finds little comfort in that. "This company does not have the right to soil the air we breathe," she said. "That's as basic as it gets." □□□Contact Jason Cato at 329-4071 or □ HYPERLINK "mailto:jcato@heraldonline.com" □jcato@heraldonline.com□. The Irish Times, June 20, 2001

The Irish Times

June 20, 2001

SECTION: CITY EDITION; WORLD NEWS; Pg. 11

LENGTH: 459 words

HEADLINE: Practices in France's **animal** waste plants denounced as 'monstrous'

BYLINE: By LARA MARLOWE

DATELINE: PARIS

BODY: Piles of carcasses amid a sludge of rotting meat, blood and fluids from dead animals; the video shown in an annex of the National Assembly yesterday was disgusting. And it pointed the finger at French government authorities who despite nearly a decade of food safety crises have allowed appalling hygiene to continue in the animal waste industry. All meat and bone meal is now banned for animal feed in France, but waste products still have to be rendered into meal for incineration. Because there are not enough incinerators, huge stocks are piling up. Disposal of animal waste from the food industry is out of control. The press conference was prompted by a whistle-blower, Mr Francis Doussal, who was sacked "for excessive and ill-willed criticism" last month by Saria, the main producer and stocker of meat and bone meal in France. Mr Doussal said practices in the industry "are a monstrosity that will claim many victims". He denounced conditions at the plant where he worked as a manager in Brittany. Employees were not provided with face masks, adequate protective clothing or the chance to disinfect themselves before leaving the plant. At another Saria plant near Paris, local residents have been overwhelmed by odours. The rendering plant at Guer, Brittany, grinds high-risk materials - animal brains, eyes, spinal cords, bone marrow, intestines. The plant is known locally as "the little shop of horrors". Holding tanks for body fluids from dead animals have flooded into a nearby river at least four times in the past years.

Ms Annie Leroy, who heads a lobby group of people who live near rendering plants, said that of the 3.5 million tonnes of animal waste processed in France every year, 800,000 tonnes were high-risk materials - banned for animal feed since 1996. As a result, high-risk materials - which can carry brucellosis and

bovine tuberculosis as well as the BSE prion - are not superheated like ordinary meal. □□"For 2 1/2 years I have been saying that transport of high-risk materials is carried out in unsafe conditions," Ms Leroy said. "The lorries are not cleaned. They are used to carry other products. The animal parts leak fluid onto the roads. The officials we go to take note, over and over."

After staging a hunger-strike to draw attention to the scandal, Mr Doussal persuaded Yann Galut, Noel Mamere and Patrick Braouezec of the National Assembly to campaign against the dangerous practices. "The Ministry of the Environment has abdicated all responsibility, while the Ministry of Agriculture is in cahoots with the industry," Mr Doussal alleged. The three deputies yesterday received a joint letter from the ministers in question, promising to study new rules for the animal waste industry.

The Mirror, November 1, 2000

The Mirror

November 1, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 343 words

HEADLINE: 'BSE' ALERT IN CHICKEN LAMB, FISH; EPIDEMIC FEAR OVER CANNIBAL **FEED**

BYLINE: Tracey Harrison Consumer Correspondent

WICKETT HERN ROADFOOD safety experts yesterday demanded a ban on "cannibalistic" farm feeding methods. They fear giving blood, tallow, gelatin, chicken manure and feathers to livestock could spark a new BSE epidemic. □□Experts believe the last outbreak was caused by feeding cows with infected sheep and cattle remains. □□Livestock can no longer be fed recycled meat or bonemeal. □□But the Food Standards Agency said this did not go far enough. □□It wants an end to the legal practice of putting animal waste in feed, or "intra-species recycling". □□A ban on feeding feathers and chicken manure to poultry, and fish waste to fish, should also be considered. □□

The call came days after an official inquiry slammed the Tory government for errors which inflamed the BSE crisis. □□More than 80 people have died from the human form, new variant CJD, probably after eating contaminated meat. □□FSA boss Sir John Krebs said animal waste was only used on a small scale in the UK. □□But he added: "Because of so much uncertainty, controls should in some cases be tightened." □□European farmers do use waste in their livestock feed - and much of our meat is imported. □□A survey published yesterday by the Co-op shows the public is disgusted by animal cannibalism. □□Nine out of 10 disapprove of the use of chicken feathers in feed and 86 per cent the use of blood. □□Nearly half of all consumers are unaware that blood can be fed to beef cattle. □□The Co-op called for a Europe-wide ban on feeding animal waste to livestock. A spokeswoman said: "It's tantamount to cannibalism and must be stamped out." □□Meanwhile, the Government said it could ban consumption of all UK lamb if BSE is confirmed in flocks. □□Some experts believe sheep have become infected by the disease. □□They fear it has been confused with the common illness scrapie. □□The National Farmers Union said destroying millions of sheep would be a "terrifying scenario". □□But it said: "It would be far worse to do nothing and unleash a new wave of disease on humans."

* * NEWSFLASH * *
MAD COW DISEASE STRIKES ISRAEL!!!

JERUSALEM — The first case of mad cow disease has been discovered in Israel.

Officials made the announcement Tuesday after tests came back positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy on a dairy cow that died on a communal farm on the Golan Heights.

The offspring of the infected cow and three other cows in the herd will be slaughtered and destroyed, the Agriculture Ministry said.

Mad cow disease can infect humans in the form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a potentially fatal affliction that has killed scores of people, most of them in Britain, since the disease was first diagnosed in 1986.

Israel will now test the brains of slaughtered cattle over the age of 30 months before the meat is sold for human consumption, the ministry said in a statement. The internal organs of all cattle considered high risk will be destroyed.

But officials are not concerned about the disease spreading in Israel because research has shown that kosher slaughter methods help prevent the spread of mad cow disease, said Alex Leventhal, the Health Ministry's head of public health services.

"Kosher slaughtering is very much, according to research, a preventive measure," Leventhal said.

Jewish ritual slaughter is performed by slitting a cow's throat.

Other methods of slaughtering cows, such as driving pins into their heads, can cause brain damage that forces the disease to spread and contaminate other parts of the animals, said Dr. Oded Nir of the Agriculture Ministry.