Simplification of rules on transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)

Published by AGRINFO on 09 Jan 2026; Revised 06 Feb 2026

Proposal for a Regulation as regards the simplification and strengthening of food and feed safety requirements

What is changing and why?

European Union (EU) rules on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), which aim to control and eradicate bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) ("mad cow disease") and scrapie in sheep, are outdated and disproportionate to the current level of risk for these diseases in the EU. The European Commission proposes to simplify the procedure to adapt certain provisions of the existing legislation, including the:

- approval of rapid tests and alternative tests
- groups of animals to be tested
- list of specified risk material (SRM) which must be removed and cannot be exported to the EU
- date of effective enforcement of the feeding bans to apply to non-EU countries
- list of commodities safe from BSE/TSE.

The Commission proposes to include gelatine and collagen from ruminant bones in this list of safe commodities, in line with the opinion of the European Food Safety Authority.

Actions

Producers of gelatin and collagen from ruminant bones and producers of composite products using such gelatin will no longer have to comply with BSE requirements. Producers will be able to source the raw material from any country, with no need to provide guarantees on the raw material used.

Ruminant meat production will be simplified, with lower costs for both official controls and operators.

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the World Trade Organization can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the EU SPS Enquiry Point until **30 March 2026**.

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All interested stakeholders are invited to give feedback via Have your say platform until **14 May 2026** (but may be extended).

Timeline

This proposal has entered a process of discussion and adoption by the Council of the EU (Member States) and the European Parliament, a process that can take up to 2 years.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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