

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Japan

Post: Tokyo

Japan to Lift Age-based BSE Testing in April 2017

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Livestock and Products

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On February 13, 2017, Japan revised a Ministerial Ordinance that will eliminate the practice of age-based testing of Japanese cattle for *bovine spongiform encephalopathy* (BSE), starting on April 1, 2017. Japan will continue to conduct BSE testing on cattle 24-months of age and older that demonstrate symptoms of central nervous system diseases.

Keywords: Japan, JA7031, BSE, Cattle

General Information:

On February 13, 2017, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) published a Ministerial Ordinance revising the implementation rules of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Special Measurement Act to eliminate BSE testing of "clinically healthy" cattle. The measure will take effect with the start of the new Japanese fiscal year on April 1, 2017, and will implement the Food Safety Commission recommendation, previously reported on in July 2016 (see [JA6017](#)).

FAS Japan has provided a provisional translation of MHLW's notification of the policy change below; the original, Japanese language notification is available [here](#).

February 13, 2017 MHLW Ministerial Ordinance

[provisional translation]

Issuing Date: February 13, 2017

From: Director of Environmental and Food Safety Department, Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau

To: Each (Prefectural Governor and City Mayor with Residing Public Health Center)

Title: Ministerial Ordinance Concerning Partial Revision to Implementation Rules of the BSE Special Measurement Act

With our official announcement today on MHLW's ministerial ordinance concerning partial revision to implementation rules of the BSE special measurement act (No. 7, 2017), the implementation of the new provision is scheduled to start April 1, 2017. In accordance with the purpose and context as described below, we would like to request to carry out the implementation without omission.

1. Purpose of the Revision:

Since the start of domestic BSE measures, more than 15 years has past. Given greatly reduced risks inside and outside of the country as well as the results of FSC's health risk assessment (Augusts 2016), domestic BSE testing on clinically healthy cattle is to be abolished.

2. Revision Context:

In order to abolish BSE testing on clinically healthy cattle, the provision set force in Article 1 of the Implementation Rules of the BSE Special Measurement Act (the Ministerial Ordinance No. 89 in 2002) is to be deleted.

3. Implementation Date:

Stating April 1, 2017