

# BSE Update Links Mad Cow to Canada, Says U.S.

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News reports published in Canada have said the herd with the infected Holstein originated at a dairy farm near Leduc, Alberta, about 20 miles south of Edmonton. The area has about 300 dairy farms.

Meanwhile, the results of a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll show that most Americans aren't very concerned about mad cow disease. In the telephone poll of 1,029 adults taken from January 2nd to January 5th, 53 percent said they consider mad cow to be a minor problem in the U.S. Only 28 percent considered it a major problem, and 81 percent said the discovery of the first case of mad cow in the USA has not changed their meat-consumption habits.

As the mad cow investigation continues, Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and other Democrats announced their support for testing all cattle at slaughter. Daschle acknowledged it might not be immediately feasible because the USDA has yet to adopt tests that can be completed within a day or two. USDA officials have said they are considering more extensive testing.

Daschle also joined with other lawmakers from the Midwest in calling on Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman to temporarily close the border to all Canadian beef products.

The mad cow scare has also widened a division between some ranchers and meatpackers over a law set to take effect this fall that will require labels.