APHIS Follow-up Questions
Japanese Beef
March 18, 2005

(1) Please clarify the exact definition of the Japanese feed ban. Is the following correct? If not, please provide an accurate detailed description. "The Japanese feed ban prohibits the feeding of any mammalian, avian or fish proteins to any livestock. The only exemptions are: 1- use of milk, collagen, and eggs/egg products in the feeding of ruminants, and 2- use of avian products, blood and fish protein produced under specific requirements in the feeding of livestock (except cattle)"

The Japanese feed ban prohibits the feeding of any mammalian, avian or fish proteins to any "livestock". The only exemptions are;

- use of milk/milk products, gelatin and collagen which is certified to meet the specified necessity conditions by MAFF, and eggs/egg products in the feeding of any livestock,
- use of swine blood meal/blood plasma proteins, equine blood meal/blood plasma proteins, chicken meal, feather meal, and avian blood meal/blood plasma proteins,which are certified to be processed in a dedicated line by MAFF, in the feeding of any livestock excluding cattle, sheep, goat and deer,
- and swill in the feeding of pig and poultry.

In addition, dedicated line for producing ruminant (cattle, sheep, goat and deer) feed is going to be mandatory under the feed safety law from April 1st 2005.

(2) Please define "livestock" as used in reference to the feed ban.

Following animals are defined as "livestock" under the feed safety law and its related ordinance.

- cattle, pig, sheep, goat and deer
- chicken and quail
- bee
- fish which are widely produced through aquaculture for human consumption

(3) Please describe the disposition of ruminant specified risk materials. We understand

that SRMs removed at slaughter facilities are rendered and then incinerated. Is this accurate? What about SRMs in dead stock or carcasses that are derived directly to rendering facilities.

SRMs removed at slaughter facilities are directly incinerated or incinerated after rendering processes. SRMs in dead stock or carcasses that are derived directly to rendering facilities are also directly incinerated or incinerated after rendering processes.

(4) Please describe the allowable uses for ruminant-derived rendered protein. Is all ruminant-derived rendered protein incinerated? Can it be used for non-feed uses (i.e. fertilizer)? Can it be used in pet food, poultry feed or swine feed?

Use of ruminant-derived meat and bone meal as feed is totally prohibited by the feed safety law. MBMs which cannot be used as fertilizer or "livestock" feed are incinerated under full support of the government just after being produced since September 2001. In addition, use of ruminant-derived rendered protein as a pet food is not conducted under the voluntary scheme of the domestic pet food industry.

(5) Please describe the allowable uses for non-ruminant rendered protein.

Swine blood meal/blood plasma proteins, equine blood meal/blood plasma proteins, chicken meal, feather meal, and avian blood meal/blood plasma proteins can be used as feed for livestock excluding cattle, sheep, goat and deer under the special conditions certified by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Swine-derived rendered products and avian-derived rendered products will be able to be used as feed for chickens and pigs from April 1st 2005.

Rendered proteins derived from pigs, chickens, horses and marine mammals can only be used as pet food under the guideline of MAFF.

(6) Please describe any requirements that have been or are in place for record-keeping, documentation, written procedures, cleaning or flushing procedures for equipment used in producing different batches of feed (such as between ruminant feed production and poultry feed production).

Requirements including cleaning procedure and record-keeping have been in place under the guideline of MAFF since June 1st 2001.

Dedicated line for ruminant (cattle, sheep, goat and deer) feed production gets mandatory under the feed safety law in April 1st 2005.

(7) Please describe how any requirements noted in question 6 are evaluated in an inspection process. How is non-compliance with such requirements recorded? Is a facility provided a time frame for correction?

The Administrative Agency, Fertiliser and Feed Inspection Services audits feed mills producing cattle feed including check of record-keeping and sampling for analyses. Compliance of the ingredient standard is evaluated through those analyses. So far, only one case is found to be non-conforming the standard since it got mandatory under the feed safety law (October 2001). The facility was immediately required to do corrective measures including recall of all the possible contaminated products and correction of the flushing procedure, and it followed the request. The facility voluntarily gave up producing cattle feed just after the incident.

(8) Please describe the feed sampling process. Is a sample taken for feed microscopy from all facilities visited? If not, how do they decide which to sample?

Sample is taken for feed microscopy from "all" visited facilities which are producing formula feed for cattle, chicken meal or fish meal. ELISA test and PCR test are also conducted for checking compliance.