|  |
| --- |
| Logo AGES |
| TSE (BSE/Scrapie/CWD) |
|  |  |
| 08.07.2025 13:11 Uhr |

**TSE
(BSE/Scrapie/CWD)**

**Transmissible
Spongiform
Enzephalopathie**

Last
change:
20.03.2025

**Profile**

TSEs
are
so-called
"transmissible
spongiform
encephalopathies"
in
animals.
These
diseases
include
BSE,
scrapie
and
CWD.
The
causative
agent
is
a
pathogenic
prion
protein
that
has
heat
resistance.
It
is
also
resistant
to
UV
and
ionised
radiation
and
to
disinfectants.

**Occurrence**

**BSE**
was
first
described
in
cattle
in
the
UK
in
1986.
There
are
also
atypical
forms
of
BSE
based
on
spontaneous
mutations
of
the
prion
protein.
A
new
variant
of
Creutzfeldt-Jakob
disease
in
humans
was
first
diagnosed
in
1996.
Today,
transmission
of
BSE
to
humans
is
thought
to
be
caused
by
food.

**Scrapie**
is
a
prion
disease
in
sheep
and
goats
that
has
been
known
for
centuries
in
Europe
and
is
not
transmissible
to
humans.
Atypical
scrapie
is
a
single-animal
disease
whose
more
precise
nature
is
still
being
researched,
but
which
also
occurs
in
countries
free
of
classical
scrapie.

**CWD**
(chronic
wasting
disease)
is
a
brain
disease
occurring
in
North
America
in
various
deer
and
elk
species,
the
significance
of
which
to
humans
is
not
yet
clear.
In
2016,
5
CWD
cases
were
detected
in
Norway
and
thus
for
the
first
time
in
Europe,
since
then
CWD
cases
have
also
occurred
in
Finland
and
Sweden.

**Host
animals**

The
actual
origin
of
the
disease
is
unknown.

**Infection
route**

The
disease
was
spread
by
feeding
cattle
with
meat
and
bone
meal
produced
from
contaminated
animal
carcasses
and
insufficiently
treated.

**Symptoms**

Behavioural
changes
(anxious/aggressive
reactions),
uncoordinated
gait,
falling
down,
abnormal
reactions
to
touch
and
sound,
fear
of
crossing
the
ditch,
fear
of
passageways,
fear
of
smallest
obstacles,
hypersensitivity
to
light,
muscle
tremors.

**Situation
in
Austria**

No
cases
of
BSE
or
scrapie
were
diagnosed
in
Austria
in
2024.
Since
May
2012,
Austria
has
been
classified
by
the
World
Organisation
for
Animal
Health
(WOAH)
as
a
country
with
a
"negligible
BSE
risk".
This
status
was
reconfirmed
in
April
2024.
Austria
has
had
"negligible
risk
for
classical
scrapie"
status
since
18
November
2014.

**BSE-tests
in
Austria**

The
two
positive
detections
in
2010
were
atypical
BSE
cases

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Tested
samples** | **Positive** |
| **2010** |
206.332 |
2 |
| **2011** |
159.214 |
0 |
| **2012** |
120.483 |
0 |
| **2013** |
44.645 |
0 |
| **2014** |
16.922 |
0 |
| **2015** |
21.008 |
0 |
| **2016** |
19.914 |
0 |
| **2017** |
17.155 |
0 |
| **2018** |
18.516 |
0 |
| **2019** |
19.097 |
0 |
| **2020** |
18.511 |
0 |
| **2021** |
18.614 |
0 |
| **2022** |
18.502 |
0 |
| **2023** |
18.697 |
0 |
| **2024** |
19.805 |
0 |

**Scrapie-tests
in
Austria**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Tested
samples** | **Positive
(atypical)** |
| **2010** |
7.328 |
0 |
| **2011** |
6.538 |
4 |
| **2012** |
7.073 |
3 |
| **2013** |
7.250 |
2 |
| **2014** |
6.918 |
3 |
| **2015** |
6.319 |
1 |
| **2016** |
3.577 |
1 |
| **2017** |
3.555 |
1 |
| **2018** |
3.727 |
1 |
| **2019** |
4.132 |
0 |
| **2020** |
3.807 |
0 |
| **2021** |
3.794 |
0 |
| **2022** |
3.279 |
1 |
| **2023** |
3.202 |
1 |
| **2024** |
3.202 |
0 |

**Specialist
information**

In
2024,
cattle
aged
48
months
and
over
that
died/killed
in
Austria
had
to
be
tested
for
BSE
if
they
were
born
in
Austria,
the
EU
or
the
United
Kingdom
(incl.
Northern
Ireland),
provided
that
the
cattle
were
moved
from
the
United
Kingdom
(excl.
Northern
Ireland)
to
the
EU
by
31
December
2020.
Cattle
that
were
slaughtered
in
an
emergency/special
slaughter
or
killed
due
to
a
slaughter
ban
because
of
illness
had
to
be
tested
for
BSE
from
the
age
of
24
months.
Cattle
from
Bulgaria
and
Romania
(no
revised
monitoring
programme)
as
well
as
Switzerland
and
third
countries
such
as
the
United
Kingdom
(excl.
Northern
Ireland)
had
to
be
tested
from
the
age
of
30
months
for
normal
slaughter
or
24
months
for
all
other
categories,
provided
that
the
cattle
were
moved
from
the
United
Kingdom
(excl.
Northern
Ireland)
to
the
EU
from
01.01.2021.
Testing
of
healthy
slaughtered
cattle
from
20
months
of
age
was
possible
at
the
expense
of
the
person
authorised
to
dispose
of
the
animals.
No
animals
were
sent
in
for
testing
in
2024.

As
part
of
a
risk-based
sampling
programme,
both
dead/killed
and
slaughtered
sheep
and
goats
aged
18
months
and
over
were
tested
for
scrapie.

On
18
January
2017,
the
European
Food
Safety
Authority
(EFSA)
published
a
comprehensive
scientific
opinion
-
[Chronic
wasting
disease
(CWD)
in
cervids](https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4667).

In
accordance
with
this
opinion,
a
three-year
surveillance
programme
for
CWD
was
set
up
in
eight
European
countries
(Estonia,
Finland,
Iceland,
Latvia,
Lithuania,
Norway,
Poland
and
Sweden)
from
1
September
2017,
with
Sweden
requesting
an
extension
of
the
programme
until
28
February
2022.
Based
on
the
data
from
this
surveillance
programme,
EFSA
prepared
a
revised
and
updated
scientific
opinion,
which
was
published
on
17
April
2023.

**Contact**

**National
reference
laboratory
for
TSE**

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