



### Denmark has been recognised as a country with a negligible risk for BSE

May 2011

Denmark was recognised as having a Negligible BSE-risk during the 79<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session in Paris May 2011, which was adopted by the resolution no. 17 on “Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members”.

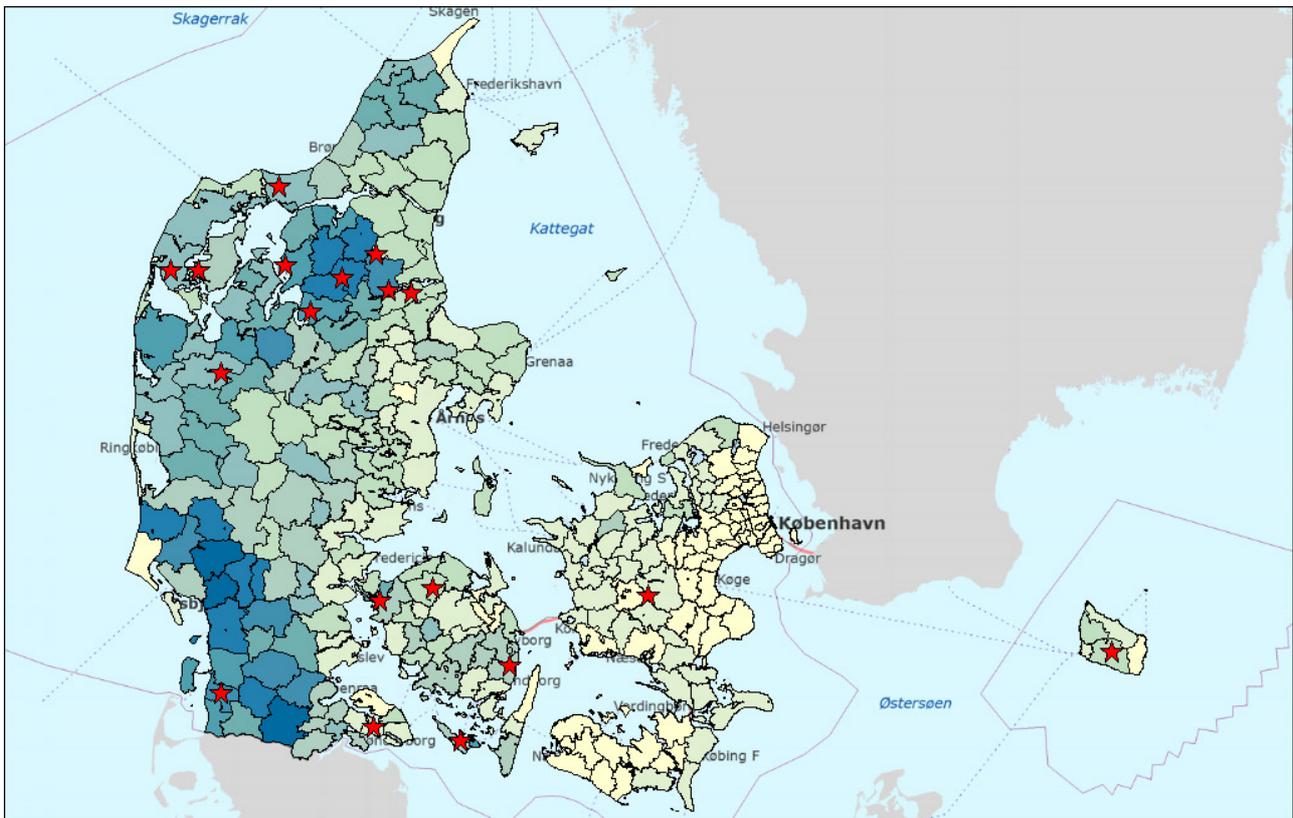
The gained status is based upon the results of the extensive active surveillance programme with more than 2 million tests performed over the last ten years and substantial documentation of effective preventive measures such as the feed ban.

### BSE in Denmark

In Denmark, 15 cases of BSE have been found in Danish born cattle since February 2000. In addition, three BSE cases have been reported in Danish born cattle exported to other EU countries. Table 1 summarises data regarding these 18 BSE cases and Figure 2 shows their geographical distribution.

Case no.	Date of birth	Age in months	Surveillance category	Average age per year (months)	Year of diagnosis
1	1996-07-01	42	Clinical suspect	-	2000
2	1993-07-01	90	Fallen stock	62	2001
3	1997-02-08	48	Clinical suspect		
4	1996-02-23	65	Healthy slaughter		
5	1996-03-12	65	Fallen stock		
6	1996-06-25	64	Healthy slaughter		
7	1998-05-23	41	Healthy slaughter		
8	1996-06-17	70	Healthy slaughter	63	2002
9	1996-01-03	80	Fallen stock		
10	1998-12-08	46	Fallen stock		
Exp.(P <sup>1</sup> )	1999-03-15	39	Healthy slaughter		
Exp.(I <sup>2</sup> )	1996-04-13	80	Healthy slaughter		
11	1997-08-25	67	Clinical suspect	76	2003
12	1996-03-01	84	Healthy slaughter		
Exp.(P <sup>1</sup> )	1996-12-19	78	Fallen stock		
13	1990	168	Fallen stock	-	2004
14	1996-03-01	113	Fallen stock	-	2005
15	1995-07-01	173	Healthy slaughter	-	2009

**Table 1 BSE cases in Danish born cattle, P<sup>1</sup>: Portugal. I<sup>2</sup>: Italy.**



**Figure 2 Geographic distributions of the 18 BSE cases found in Denmark since 2000**

### **The EU-surveillance programme in Denmark**

The surveillance, prevention and control of BSE and other TSE's in The European Union is laid down in a common set of rules, which are valid for the whole of the EU.

Denmark fulfils the EU rules and the active Danish surveillance programme started 1 October 2000 and included random sampling of risk animals and healthy slaughter animals.

Testing of all healthy slaughter animals above the age of 30 months and all risk animals above the age of 24 months began 1 January 2001.

This was changed 1 January 2009 due to changes in the EU-legislation, where the age for testing was raised to 48 month for all risk animals and all slaughter animals in Denmark as well as in 16 other EU-countries.

The latest EU change is that 25 EU Members including Denmark 1 July 2011 raise the age limit for slaughter animals to 72 months while keeping the age limit for risk animals at 48 months.

In Denmark we will continue the active surveillance in accordance with the EU rules, and we will keep on having specific awareness on suspicions of animals with clinical signs of BSE.

### **Prevention and control**

Denmark will continue to fulfil the TSE legislation laid down by the EU Commission in EU Regulation 999/2001 (as amended).

We find that it is important with prevention and will continue to remove specified risk material (SRM) from carcasses of slaughtered animals, and secure that the rules of use of meat and bone meal will be fulfilled until it is scientifically proven that it is safe to remove the measures.

**Future aspects of the Danish BSE surveillance**

The Danish BSE surveillance will continue as a top priority with a high level for the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration in order to take all precautions necessary to protect both national and international consumers against the potential health risk associated with bovine products.