

VS FORM 17-131 INSTRUCTIONS

This is a companion form to VS Form 17-146 (BSE Surveillance Submission Form) and should always be accompanied by VS 17-146. Complete this form for each animal listed on VS 17-146.

1. PRIMARY REASON FOR SUBMISSION

Use professional judgment to select the one reason that best describes why this sample is being taken. If more than one reason applies, check the reason with the **smallest** associated number.

- Highly suspicious for BSE: animal being sampled demonstrates clinical signs of, or has a clinical history consistent with, the definition of "highly suspicious for BSE" as described in VS Memo 580.16.
- FSIS, antemortem condemned cattle: animals condemned by FSIS personnel prior to slaughter and sampled at the slaughter plant or at an offsite collection facility. (Note: If selected, an FSIS Condemnation Code must also be selected in Block 9.)
- Rabies suspect: animals initially identified for rabies testing because of clinical signs or clinical history, as described in VS Memo 580.16.
- CNS signs: animal has central nervous system (CNS) signs consistent with primary CNS disease, but does not meet all the criteria for classification as Highly Suspicious for BSE.
- Nonambulatory/Disabled/Downer: animal sampled primarily because it is nonambulatory, periodically or continuously.
- Other clinical signs that may be associated with BSE: animal demonstrates clinical signs that may be consistent with BSE, such as emaciation, tetanus (tetany), or injuries.
- Dead: available history only indicates that the animal is dead, with none of the preceding conditions described above

2. BSE REFERRAL NUMBER

This number must correspond to the number listed on the related VS Form 17-146. See instructions for VS 17-146 for details on preferred numbering format.

3. INDIVIDUAL DETERMINING REASON/SIGNS

Check the box that best describes the individual who determined the primary reason for this submission and the clinical signs for the animal identified on this form. If "Other" is selected, describe in Block 10.

4. BSE SAMPLE ID

Add the Sample ID barcode for which the animal information on this form applies. See instructions for VS 17-146 for details on barcode availability and distribution.

5. OWNER INFORMATION

Enter known information for the premises on which the sampled animal was **last held or resided**. At a minimum, provide the State or county.

6. SLAUGHTER SITE

This block pertains **ONLY** to animals slaughtered at a State- or FSIS-inspected facility. Mark the box if the slaughter site is the same as the collection site described in Block 3 of the accompanying VS Form 17-146. Otherwise, enter all requested information about the slaughter site.

7. ANIMAL INFORMATION

- Breed: Enter apparent breed of animal. If unknown, check whether beef or dairy breed and include animal's primary colors.
- Age: Enter the animal's age as the number of months or the number of years (whole numbers only). If purebred records or other official sources are used to calculate the animal's age, check the "Recorded" box. Otherwise, check the "Estimated" box.
- Dentition: Examine the animal's mouth and check "Yes" if at least one of the second incisors has erupted.
- Gender and Neuter Status: Check the appropriate box.
- Country of Origin: If it is known that the animal originated from a country other than the United States, write the name of the country in the space provided.
- Animal ID: In the appropriate boxes, enter ALL types of animal identification devices, brands, and tattoos associated with the sampled animal.
 - Record all letters in upper case (capitalize).
 - Substitute an underscore (_), without additional spaces, for each unreadable character in the identification.
 - Official USDA tags (e.g., USDA bright metal eartag, brucellosis vaccination eartag, Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartag, bangle eartag). If an animal has more than one official USDA identification, enter additional identifications in Block 10.
 - Nonofficial tags: Indicate the color of the tag, according to the key below, followed by whatever is written on the tags. For multi-colored tags, include all colors.
Y=yellow R=red G=green W=white
B=blue O=orange P=pink T=tan/brown
S=silver K=black A=gray
L=lavender/purple
 - Brands (hot iron or freeze): Describe to the best of your ability. Include the location of the brand on the animal.
 - Tattoos: Indicate which ear (R=right, L=left) or other location and include all characters.

8. CLINICAL SIGNS

Check all signs that apply. At least one sign must be checked. Be thorough and complete. Obtain information directly from animal handlers/owners whenever possible. Use professional judgment and ensure that contradictory signs are not checked. Indicate whether the signs were progressive (worsened over time) and whether they were responsive to treatment. Clinical signs are important to determine the significance of each sample in the surveillance program.

9. FSIS CONDEMNATION CODES

Complete this section **ONLY** if "FSIS, antemortem condemned cattle" was selected in Block 1. Select only one condemnation code.

10. ADDITIONAL DATA/COMMENTS

Use this block if there is insufficient space in other blocks or to add any relevant information.