

**9 MARCH 2007**

**Canadian Rule Comment Period Not Extended**

The National Milk Producers Federation and R-CALF USA have asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to extend the comment period on a proposed rule that would re-open the U.S. border to all Canadian cattle born after March 1, 1999. According to USDA, that is the date when Canada's ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban should have taken effect, so cattle born thereafter should not be at risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Bruce Knight stated the public comment period on USDA's proposed rule will close on March 12 as originally planned.

"I replied back to them that we didn't see a need for that," Knight said, citing a 'robust' number of comments on the proposed rule already received.