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Panel Recommends US, Canada Get Favorable BSE Rating

A panel for the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has recommended to its 167 member countries that the United States and Canada be given a favorable rating on mad cow disease safety, a designation both countries want to spur beef and cattle trade, according to officials in the United States and Canada.

The OIE is proposing both countries get a 'controlled' risk rating for their handling of the cattle disease that can be passed to humans through consumption of tainted meat.

The OIE will meet in May for its annual general session, and members will vote to approve or disapprove rating categories being proposed for several countries, including the United States and Canada.