Entegra is committed to providing our customers and clients with consistently high quality and safe food products. Our Company's food safety program complies with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended, and with State and local Public Health regulations. Entegra, with the assistance of quality assurance and food safety experts, evaluates and selects high quality products from a wide network of reputable manufacturers and distributors.

Entegra’s very stringent vendor approval process ensures that we are buying our products from the safest sources possible. Essentially all our approved suppliers have “integrated facilities” which gives them increased control over slaughter, fabrication, and further processing of raw materials. This ensures the origin and tracking of raw materials used for products such as ground beef. Entegra’s beef specifications require strict controls for the use of imported beef.

**The Facts**

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), also widely referred to as “mad cow disease”, is a progressive and fatal neurological disease affecting the central nervous system of cattle. Experts believe that BSE results from infection by an abnormal form of a normal protein known as a cellular prion protein. Current scientific research confirms that this infection occurs in the brain, trigeminal ganglia, tonsils, spinal cord, dorsal root ganglion, and distal ileum of the small intestine, and possibly the bone marrow of cattle experimentally infected with the BSE agent. BSE is not a contagious disease, and to this day there is no evidence that it is spread through direct contact between cattle. The primary source of infection in cattle is through consumption of feed contaminated with the infectious BSE agent.

BSE is a disease that affects cattle. However, there is scientific evidence (epidemiological and laboratory) linking a rare, degenerative, fatal brain disorder in humans called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) to the consumption of BSE-contaminated product. This type of disease begins primarily with psychiatric symptoms and affects younger patients. However, evidence suggests that the risk for having vCJD is low, even after consumption of BSE-contaminated product.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, has taken measures to attempt to prevent the introduction and potential spread of BSE in the United States. In 1997, the FDA introduced regulations for U.S. manufacturers, designed to prevent the spread of BSE through feed. In December 2003, the USDA announced four new policies to further strengthen an existing solid food safety system against BSE. In June 2004, the USDA began an enhanced surveillance program for BSE.

Entegra will continue to follow the guidance of U.S. Regulatory Agencies. For additional and up to date information provided by the USDA and FDA go to:

http://www.fda.gov/animalveterinary/resourcesforyou/animalhealthliteracy/ucm136222.htm

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