



# **Mad Cow Disease**

By: Rylee and Cassidy

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- Mad Cow disease is a incurable, fatal brain disease that affects cattle and sometimes goats and sheep
- It attacks the cow's nervous system and causes it to lose control of its ability to perform everyday tasks, like walking
- Its medical name is *bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)*

# What is it?

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- People don't contract Mad Cow disease, but if they eat the meat from an affected cow they can develop vCJD
- vCJD is a type of protein that cause the brain cells to die, and the brain will eventually be spongy-like.
- People will slowly lose control on their physical and mental abilities

## **Can People get it?**

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- When you buy meat, make sure it comes from a reliable source
- The Government (FDA) created a procedure to remove the parts of a cow that are at the highest risk of BSE (spinal chord and brain)
- Ranchers also test their cattle regularly for the disease

# Prevention

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A cow with BSE is  
trying to walk

- [http://kidshealth.org/teen/infections/bacterial\\_viral/mad\\_cow\\_disease.html#](http://kidshealth.org/teen/infections/bacterial_viral/mad_cow_disease.html#)
- <http://schoolworkhelper.net/mad-cow-disease-history-causes/>

# Sources

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