

# Federal News Weekly Summary

## Agriculture

### USDA HOLDS MEETING ON BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service facilitated a meeting held today to review current U.S. policies and regulations dealing with BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), also known as the "mad cow" disease.

BSE does not exist in the United States. British cattle and processed beef have been prohibited from being imported into the U.S. since 1989.

USDA's intent in calling together about 70 international, federal and state animal health representatives, public health officials, industry representatives, and members of the scientific community is to review current policies to ensure that the United States maintains a coordinated, science-based, and effective approach that will keep the U.S. free of BSE.

FROM: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: 03/25/96

## Education

### EDUCATION CRACKDOWN ON HIGH-DEFAULT SCHOOLS SHOWS RESULTS; TRADE SCHOOL RATES DROP SHARPLY

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Education Department's ongoing campaign to crack down on postsecondary schools with high student loan default rates has produced a sharp drop in historically high defaults at for-profit trade schools, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley report Wednesday.

Proprietary schools saw rates decline from 30.2 percent in fiscal year 1992 to 23.9 in FY '93, a drop of 20.8 percent.

Riley attributed the decline to a number of factors, including stronger oversight of "high-risk" schools, an improved process for granting eligibility and certification of schools and programs, and the department's default reduction initiatives.

Riley also credited modern technology with helping to lower the default rate, citing the department's ability to verify immigration status and identify applicants who provide false information, previously defaulted on a student loan or received an overpayment. Last year, the National Student Loan Data System blocked the issuance of \$230 million in loans to some 140,000 ineligible applicants. Riley said new incentives for guaranty agencies will also help students avoid default and should reduce defaults further.

"These results show our increased commitment to accountability is paying off," Riley said. "We'll keep working to cut defaults further and protect taxpayers' investment in higher education."

FROM: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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