

Report: Mad cow in California was isolated case

August 3 2012, by TRACIE CONE

(AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says a California Holstein discovered in April with mad cow disease was an isolated case and posed no threat to the food supply.

A report issued Friday looked at the movements of the infected dairy cow, her offspring and the food eaten by the herd.

The three-month investigation turned up no other cases of the disease known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

USDA veterinarian John Clifford says the investigation confirms the U.S. [food](#) supply was not at risk.

Some scientists believe the cow developed atypical BSE from a random mutation, something that happens occasionally.

The 10-year-old dairy [cow](#), only the fourth with the sickness ever discovered in the United States, was found as part of a USDA program that tests for the fatal brain disease in about 40,000 cows of the 35 million slaughtered each year.

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