

**WASHINGTON-** Congressman Spencer Bachus is pleased to announce that he has secured a \$450,000 appropriation to help further protect Alabama's beef supply from an outbreak of Mad Cow Disease, or BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy). □

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Congressman Bachus secured the appropriation in the 2005 Agriculture Appropriations Bill that passed the House of Representatives late this afternoon.

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“This funding is good insurance for all consumers of beef,” said Bachus.

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**Bachus continued, “The isolated case of Mad Cow that occurred late last year in the Pacific Northwest reminded all of us that Alabama's farmers should have the best technology possible to keep our food supply safe.”**

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In the event of a Mad Cow Disease outbreak, the funding will allow the cattle industry to coordinate and determine where the infected cattle have been in the past to prevent further infection and contamination to the food supply.

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**“The Alabama Beef Connection program will provide communication between Alabama cattle producers, cattle feedlots, and meat packing facilities.□ This tracking system will make Alabama's cattle industry more attractive to new**

**buyers in the beef market because of the added safety of our cattle supply,” said Congressman Bachus.**

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**Currently, Alabama provides over 350,000 beef cattle annually to the food supply of the United States.□ With 27,000 cattle producers shipping these cattle to feedlots in over 30 states, the Alabama Beef Connection promises to be an important step in keeping the food supply safe.**

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