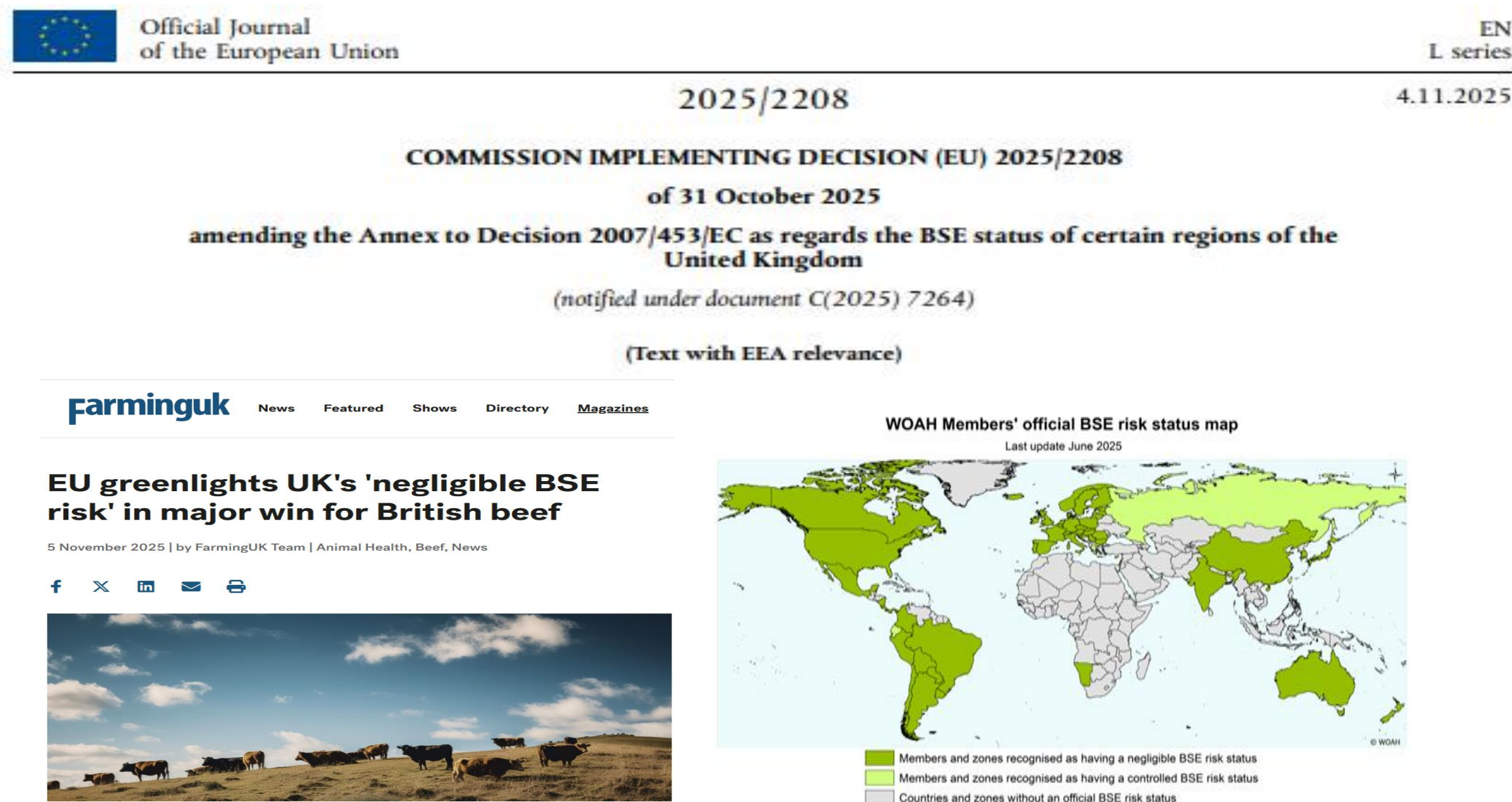


# THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BSE NEGLIGIBLE RISK STATUS - LESSONS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

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“Achieving negligible risk status brings significant benefits – not only cost savings in processing and the ability to utilise more of each carcase, but also greater confidence in the quality and safety of our beef in international markets. It is a major step forward for the UK livestock sector, enhancing its global reputation and potentially unlocking new market opportunities for British beef.”

**David Barton**, National Farmers’ Union Chair

## Background to the UK BSE crisis

### What is Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)?

BSE is caused by prions, misfolded proteins that induce abnormal brain protein folding causing fatal neurodegeneration in cattle.

#### Economic Impact

BSE crisis cost approximately £3.7 billion.

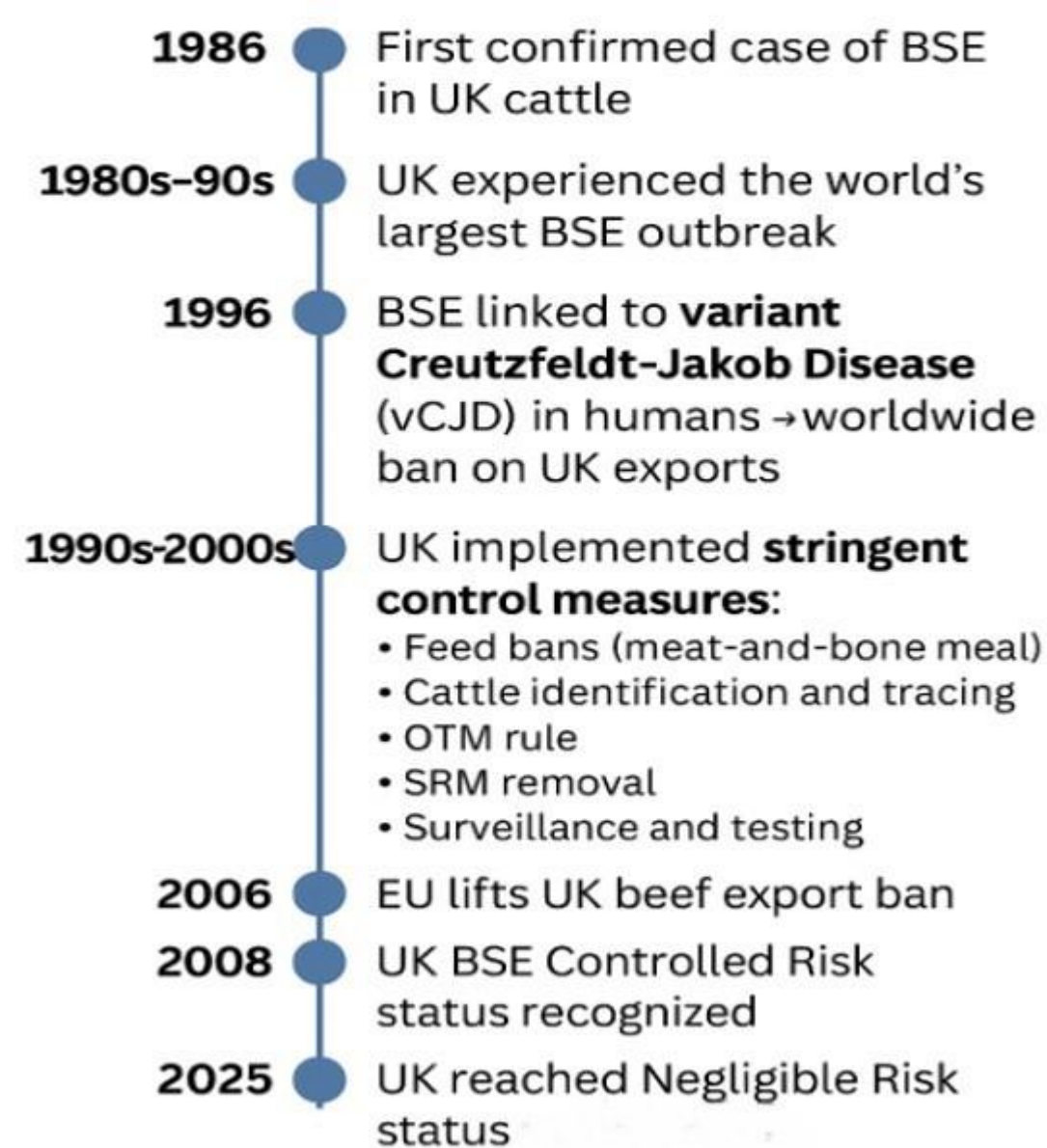
#### Impact on Livestock and Humans

BSE affected livestock health and was linked to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, raising global health concerns.

#### Regulatory Measures

Strict regulations banned meat and bone meal in feed and removed risk materials to control and eradicate BSE.

### BSE in the UK—Timeline



## How did the UK achieve BSE negligible risk status?

BSE negligible risk status after nearly 40 years of implementing stringent controls since the first confirmed case. This milestone reflects decades of coordinated effort between government departments and industry to apply and maintain robust measures that reduced the risk to negligible.

UK Government funding for BSE research was pivotal for devising and assuring correct controls. It wasn't just about understanding the disease; it shaped the entire framework for risk management and public health protection.

### Multi-Agency Collaboration

Cross-government collaboration was essential, involving the UK's Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and industry bodies. Multiple teams and units worked together, including pathology, epidemiology, and surveillance teams.

### Data-Driven Surveillance

Over eight years of surveillance, feed testing, Animal By-Product inspections, and traceability data were meticulously analyzed, reviewed and quality assured as part of the application.

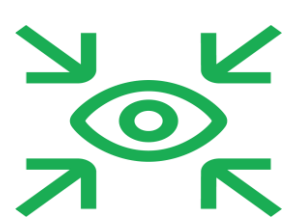
### Compliance and Risk Management

Preparing the WOAH-compliant dossier showcased intensive alignment with evolving international standards and effective BSE controls.

### One Health Commitment

This achievement highlights the UK's dedication to One Health principles integrating animal, food, and public health sectors and the UK's commitment to transparency.

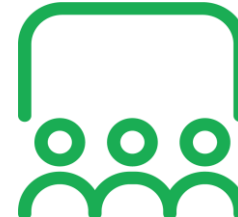
## APHA's commitment



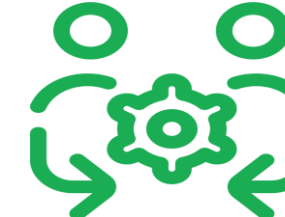
Continuous Monitoring and  
Enforcement



Scientific Research and  
Surveillance



Public Awareness and  
Stakeholder Engagement



International Collaboration



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