

Why Wait Until They Died?

The Edmonton Journal recently reported that nearly 450 head of neglected cattle have been seized from a northern Alberta farm - the single largest removal in years, according to this story - as the pressures of mad cow disease take their toll.

Morris Airey, the director of enforcement for the Alberta SPCA said that the malnourished cattle, some bordering on emaciation, were seized after repeated interventions by the Society and a provincial livestock welfare organization failed to convince the owner to "take better care of his herd."

Twenty-seven cows and calves were found dead on the property. Five more had to be euthanized. "The drought of the last two years and the market conditions as a result of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) have put pressure on all of the industry," Airey said. "The lower-end operations are showing the signs of that pressure."

The 448 surviving cattle were taken from the Lac La Biche ranch and are in custody of a caretaker.

The original story was provided by the Can-West-News Service.