



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson to meet with Agriculture Secretary, dignitaries From Japan and South Korea on Mad Cow Disease

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson and New Mexico Agriculture Miley Gonzalez will meet Thursday with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and the ambassadors from South Korea and Japan to discuss ways to lift foreign bans on U.S. beef and beef products.

“As promised, I am continuing my efforts alleviate concerns about Mad Cow Disease, and persuade foreign leaders to expedite allowing New Mexico’s livestock industry to resume trade,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “It is important that these leaders hear directly from me. I want them to understand that the discovery of a single cow infected with Mad Cow Disease is unfairly impacting New Mexico’s economy, even though there is no evidence of the disease in our state.”

Governor Richardson has voiced his concerns with Secretary Veneman during phone conversations. The Governor said he looks forward to following up with the Secretary while he is in Washington, D.C.

Governor Richardson has also spoken with Mexican Agricultural Secretary Javier Uzabiaga Arroyo about that country’s temporary ban on livestock. Following those conversations, Governor Richardson met with members of his administration, and launched several initiatives, such as better tracking of cows, better cross-border cooperation and planning and early detection programs, to prevent or limit the spread of diseases such as Mad Cow Disease.

Governor Richardson will also travel to Boston for a meeting with Mayor Thomas Menino and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney to discuss the upcoming Democratic National Convention. The Governor will also deliver a speech to the Downtown Harvard Club about the convention. The Governor’s political action committee, Moving American Forward, and the Democratic Governors’ Association are picking up costs for the Governor’s travel.