

**[May 25 - 4:45 p.m.]  
Nashville news report roils cattle futures markets**

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The live and feeder cattle futures markets at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange lost their footing Tuesday morning after word spread of a WTVF-Channel 5 report on mad cow disease.

The spot month in the futures fell its three-cent maximum, before coming off the limit-down level later in the session.

Yesterday, WTVF ran [a story](#) about Staff Sgt. James Alford, a Ft. Campbell soldier suffering from a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease — mad cow's human form. Apparently, the report was seized on by cattle traders, causing a mini-panic of sorts.

The singular case has been linked to a 2001 Special Forces mission to Oman where villagers unknowingly served Alford infected sheep's brains. The discovery led to the annulment of the staff sergeant's court-martial and restoration of his rank over six months ago, a report covered by [several national news organizations](#) last November.

Reuters [reported first](#) this afternoon that a Nashville news item on Mad Cow roiled the cattle markets.

A federal health official told Reuters that the CDC was not aware of any new human Mad Cow cases.

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