

‘Mad Cow’ libel case

TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey is due in a Texas courtroom today to face a lawsuit filed by cattlemen upset with a 1996 show about the dangers of mad cow disease.

During her show, co-defendant Howard Lyman claimed that feeding ground-up animal parts to cattle – a practice banned in the U.S. in 1997 – could spread mad cow disease to humans.

To applause from the studio audience

Ms. Winfrey exclaimed: *‘It has just stopped me from eating another burger!’*



Plaintiffs include Amarillo cattleman Paul F. Engler who alleges he lost \$6.7 million as cattle prices plummeted following the broadcast

The federal lawsuit could be the biggest test yet of **veggie libel laws**. Critics claim such laws gag freedom of speech and violate the Constitution