



# News Release

Sonic Corp. • 300 Johnny Bench Drive • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104 • (405) 225-5000

Contact: Nancy Love Robertson  
Vice President of People &  
Communications  
(405) 627-1003

## SONIC CORP. COMMENTS ON WASHINGTON STATE BSE ISSUE

### Sonic Supply Chain Not Affected

OKLAHOMA CITY (December 24, 2003) – Sonic Corp. (NASDAQ/NM:SONC) today issued the following statement: The USDA confirmed yesterday that a single dairy cow from a farm in Washington State has tested positive for BSE, commonly referred to as Mad Cow Disease.

"The USDA's stringent monitoring system identified a 'downer' cow, or one that cannot walk. Sonic's quality standards prohibit the processing of downer cows in our beef supply," said Cliff Hudson, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Sonic Corp. "Sonic does not purchase beef from that area of the country or from the affected suppliers. We value the relationship we have with our customers and will continue to monitor our products to ensure the highest quality standards are met. The USDA is doing everything in their power to ensure the safety of our food supply, and Sonic will continue to support their efforts."

According to USDA Secretary Ann Veneman, this isolated incident does not pose a threat to humans.

Celebrating its 50th birthday in 2003, Sonic originally started as a hamburger and root beer stand in Shawnee, Okla., called Top Hat Drive-In, then later changed its name to Sonic. The first drive-in to adopt the Sonic name is still serving customers in Stillwater, Okla. Sonic now has more than 2,700 drive-ins in 30 states, and is the nation's largest chain of drive-in restaurants with more than a million customers eating at Sonic Drive-Ins every day. For more information about Sonic Corp. and its subsidiaries, visit Sonic on the Internet at [www.sonicdrivein.com](http://www.sonicdrivein.com).

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. There are certain important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated by the statements made herein. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ from predicted or expected results are: delays in opening new stores because of weather, strikes, local permitting or other reasons; increased competition; cost increases or shortages in raw food products; risks of foodborne illness; and the possibility of unforeseen events affecting the industry generally. The company undertakes no obligation to publicly release revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unforeseen events, except as required to be reported under the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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