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Foreign animal disease information and information sources

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USDA/APHIS

Website

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Q's and A's

January 2002

Q: What is foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)?

A: FMD is a highly contagious and economically devastating disease of cattle and swine. It also affects sheep, goats, deer, and other cloven-hooved ruminants. Many affected animals recover, but the disease leaves them debilitated. FMD causes severe losses in the production of meat and milk. Because it spreads widely and rapidly and because it has grave economic as well as physical consequences, FMD is one of the animal diseases that livestock owners dread most. The disease does not affect food safety or humans.

Q: What are the potential economic ramifications of an FMD outbreak in the United States?

A: An FMD outbreak in the United States could potentially cost the U.S. livestock industry billions of dollars in losses in the first year.

Q: Can people get the disease from animals?

A: It is not believed to readily affect humans. The disease has no implications for the human food chain. People, however, can spread the virus to animals because it can remain in human nasal passages for as long as 28 hours.

Q: How do you get rid of foot-and-mouth disease?

A: The virus can be killed off by heat, low humidity, or some disinfectants. It is only rarely fatal, although it is more likely to kill very young animals. There is no cure for the disease, and it usually runs its course in 2 or 3 weeks with most animals recovering, although some animals take up to 6 months to fully recover.

Q: If most animals don't die, why go to such great lengths to eradicate it?

A: The disease is highly contagious with nearly 100 percent of exposed animals becoming infected. If the disease became widespread in any country there would be disastrous economic consequences. For example, the most serious effects of the disease in dairy cattle are loss of milk and yield.

Q: What is the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) doing to protect the United States from foot-and-mouth disease?

A: In order to protect U.S. livestock from the introduction of FMD, USDA implemented an interim rule on February 21, prohibiting or restricting the importation into the United States of live swine and ruminants and any fresh swine or ruminant meat (chilled or frozen) or products from Great Britain or Northern Ireland. USDA's FMD policy has been to be proactive and preventative. As a result, the interim rule is effective retroactively. Products dated after January 14 are not permitted entry into the United States. This rule has not yet been published in the Federal Register.

Q: What is USDA doing to prevent travelers from bringing FMD into the United States?

A: There is no change in the regulation regarding U.S. surveillance measures of travelers for FMD. However, ports of entry have been notified to enhance surveillance of travelers coming from Europe, particularly the United Kingdom (UK) because that area is now considered to be at high risk for FMD.

Q: What should travelers do if they are planning to visit a farm or are in contact with livestock while abroad?

A: All international travelers must state on their Customs declaration form whether or not they have been on a farm or in contact with livestock and if they are bringing any meat or dairy products from their travels back with them. APHIS officials will inspect the baggage of all travelers who indicate they have been on a farm or in contact with livestock. Any soiled footwear must be disinfected with detergent and bleach. If travelers are around livestock in the UK and they have livestock at home in the United States, they should avoid contact with their animals for 5 days after returning. In addition, soiled clothing must be washed and disinfected prior to returning to the United States.

Q: Can travelers bring animal products back to the United States from Europe?

A: Any ruminant or swine products (cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and other cloven-hooved animals included), with the exception of hard cheeses and canned products with a shelf life, will be confiscated.

Q: How can farmers support USDA in its efforts to prevent FMD in the United States?

A: As always, farmers can support U.S. efforts against FMD by watching for excessive salivating, lameness, and other signs of FMD in their herd and immediately reporting any unusual or suspicious signs of disease to their veterinarian, State or Federal animal disease control officials, or their county agricultural agent. Garbage feeders are encouraged to fully cook their feed before giving it to livestock.

For more information about FMD, contact:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
Emergency Programs
4700 River Road, Unit 41
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
Telephone (301) 734-8073
Fax (301) 734-7817
The APHIS Emergency Operations Center
(800) 940-6524
e-mail: emoc@aphis.usda.gov

Current information on animal diseases and suspected outbreaks is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS)

Website

<http://www.usaha.org/NAHEMS>

NAHEMS is a joint state-federal-industry effort to improve the United States' ability to deal successfully with animal health emergencies. These emergencies can range from flood and drought to introductions of deadly foreign animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, hog cholera, or African swine fever.

In addition to addressing the threat of a major foreign animal disease outbreak, NAHEMS looks at bioterrorism, emerging diseases, and diseases that pose a threat to production and international trade.

By being better able to deal with animal health emergencies, we reduce the threat to the nation's food supply and help maintain the economic well-being of U.S. animal agriculture.

Our focus is on four key elements:

- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

USDA/APHIS/VS Center for Emerging Issues (CEI)

Website

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cei>

CEI assesses disease occurrences in foreign countries and communicates this information in timely Impact Worksheets. Each worksheet examines the affected country's production and trade in the livestock and livestock products likely to be affected by the disease. Risk factors for the U.S. such as level of U.S. imports from the affected country and passenger traffic are examined.

CEI also produces Emerging Disease Notices. Emerging Disease Notices examine occurrences of a new or emerging diseases. Areas covered in an Emerging Disease Notice include a brief review of what is known about the epidemiology of the disease, mode of transmission, reservoir species, and zoonotic potential. In addition, production and trade in livestock and livestock products likely to be affected by the dis-

ease are examined along with risk factors for disease spread within or to the U.S.

OIE: World Organization of Animal Health

Website

www.oie.int

Status

The OIE is an intergovernmental organization created by the International Agreement of 25 January 1924, signed by 28 countries. In May 2002, the OIE totaled 162 Member Countries.

Missions

To guarantee the transparency of animal disease status world-wide

Each Member Country undertakes to report the animal diseases that it detects on its territory. The OIE then disseminates the information to other countries, which can take the necessary preventive action. This information also includes diseases transmissible to humans. Information is sent out immediately or periodically depending on the seriousness of the disease. Dissemination is via the OIE Web site, e-mail and the following periodicals: *Disease Information*, published weekly, the OIE *Bulletin* published every two months and the annual compilation *World Animal Health*.

To collect, analyze and disseminate veterinary scientific information

The OIE collects and analyses the latest scientific information on animal disease control. This information is then made available to the Member Countries to help them to improve the methods used to control and eradicate these diseases. Scientific information is also disseminated through various works and periodicals published by the OIE, notably the *Scientific and Technical Review* (3 issues a year).

To provide expertise and promote international solidarity for the control of animal diseases

The OIE provides technical support to Member Countries requesting assistance with animal disease control and eradication operations, including diseases transmissible to humans. The OIE notably offers expertise to the poorest countries to help them control animal diseases that cause livestock losses, present a risk to public health and threaten other Member Countries.

To guarantee the sanitary safety of world trade by developing sanitary rules for international trade in animals and animal products

The OIE develops normative documents relating to rules that Member Countries can use to protect themselves from diseases, without setting up unjustified sanitary barriers. The main normative works produced by the OIE are: the International Animal Health Code, the Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, the International Aquatic Animal Health

Code and the Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases.

OIE standards are recognized by the World Trade Organization as reference international sanitary rules. They are prepared by elected Specialist Commissions and by Working Groups bringing together internationally renowned scientists, most of whom are experts within the network of 152 Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories that also contribute towards the scientific objectives of the OIE. These standards are adopted by the International Committee.

Infectious Disease

The vision of the program is to ensure animal health through improved disease detection, prevention, control, and treatment. ARS is currently conducting research to produce more effective foreign animal disease (FAD) vaccines and as well as rapid diagnostic tests for FADs.



National Biosecurity Resource Center for Animal Health Emergencies

Website

www.biosecuritycenter.org

The National Biosecurity Center is a data haven to enable Government, Commodity Groups, Veterinarians, and Producers to meet the challenges of animal health emergencies.

National Pork Board Science and Technology Department

Website

www.porkscience.org

The mission of the National Pork Board's Science and Technology Department is to provide the scientific support for identifying and addressing issues affecting the health, safety and quality of the pork industry's animals, products or people. Information provided as fact sheets, publications, news & events, and research results are the result of Check off funded programs.

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Animal Health Program

Website

<http://www.nps.ars.usda.gov/programs>

The mission of the Animal Health Program is to conduct basic and applied research on selected diseases of economic importance to the United States livestock and poultry industries. The goals of the research mission are to produce knowledge and technology to reduce economic losses from infectious, genetic, and metabolic diseases of livestock and poultry.

- The research components of this program include:
 - Pathogen Detection and Diagnostics
 - Animal Immunology
 - Microbial Genomics
 - Mechanism of Disease
 - Genetic Resistance to Disease
 - Epidemiology of Disease
 - Strategies to Control Infectious and Non-