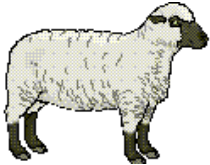


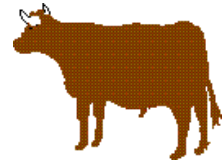


# EMERGENCY DISEASE PROGRAM ALERT

Animal Health and Food Safety Services  
Animal Health Branch



## Foot and Mouth Disease Global Disease Update - March 2001 -



### Introduction

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious, debilitating viral disease affecting cloven-footed domestic and wild animals including bovids (cattle, zebu, domestic buffaloes, yaks), sheep, goats, pigs, deer, camelids (camels, dromedaries, llamas, vicunas), and antelope. FMD cannot be transmitted to people. FMD has not been seen in the US since 1929 when an outbreak occurred in California. Because it spreads rapidly and widely, and has grave consequences on animal welfare and trade, FMD is one of the most feared animal diseases.

### A Worldwide Disease Concern

FMD is widespread throughout the world and is endemic in parts of Africa, South America, Middle East, Asia, and Europe. Countries affected by FMD in the past twelve months include Butan, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kuwait, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Namibia, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Uruguay and Zambia. Recent confirmation of FMD in the UK and the suspicion of an outbreak in Belgium and France have heightened the awareness of California producers to the potential spread from our European neighbors. The last major outbreak of the disease in the European Union was in Greece.

### FMD outbreaks 2000



All serotypes as officially reported to OIE, WRI, FAO

**The United Kingdom** on February 21, 2001 reported its first outbreak of FMD since 1981. After the confirmation of the disease, animal health officials immediately restricted movement of pigs, sheep, goats, and cattle within the country. Hundreds of thousands of animals have been humanely destroyed with carcass disposal by on-farm incineration. Trade in susceptible animals and many animal products has stopped. European countries that have received susceptible animals from the UK are using preventive slaughter to minimize the risk of disease introduction. The entire European Union is on high alert following extension of the outbreak to France.

**Japan** in April 7, 2000 confirmed an outbreak of foot and mouth disease to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). Movement of susceptible animals was prohibited and livestock market and slaughterhouse activities were suspended within the area. Intensive surveillance took place within the movement control area. The last reported outbreak of FMD in Japan was in 1908.

In March 2000, the **Republic of South Korea** reported to the OIE that FMD was suspected on an isolated, small dairy farm. It started with one lactating cow showing clinical signs of depression; inappetence; excessive salivation; lameness; vesicles and ulcers on the feet, mouth, tongue and teats; and a sudden drop in milk production. By March 24, 2000 the owner of the affected herd notified the authorities. The animals were depopulated, and protection and surveillance zones were setup to facilitate the containment of the outbreak. The last reported outbreak of FMD in South Korea was in 1934.

### FMD Free Countries

Countries work hard to maintain their FMD free status. The Office International des Epizooties (OIE) currently lists 50 member countries as FMD free including Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Several other countries are working to achieve their free status. A complete list of FMD free countries can be found on the OIE website at [www.Oie.int/status](http://www.Oie.int/status).

## The Consequences of FMD

There are devastating consequences of an FMD outbreak on animal welfare and production, and on local and international trade. Vaccination may be considered by federal authorities, however, “stamping out” by depopulation of infected and in-contact susceptible animals is the preferred method of control. Some of the potential consequences of FMD are as follows:

- Quarantine of facilities housing animals suspected of infection with FMD. This precaution is necessary until laboratory testing determines the diagnosis.
- Movement restrictions will be immediately placed on animals and their products within the region or country where infection is suspected or confirmed.
- Depopulation of affected and in-contact animals on a facility with confirmed FMD. Indemnity will be paid according to state and federal law.
- Officials may elect to depopulate susceptible animals in the area surrounding the confirmed presence, in order to halt the spread of infection and prevent it from entering a wildlife reservoir.
- Depopulated animal carcasses from an FMD positive facility are buried or burned on-site, to prevent spread of infection. The facility is then thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Restocking is done after the facility has been vacant for a minimum of 30 days and new animals are closely observed for recurrence of infection.
- Regional closure of livestock markets.
- Severe trade restrictions including export bans on all cloven-footed animals and their products.

## National Safeguards

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) protects the country from the international spread of FMD and other foreign animal diseases. The USDA adopts interim rules prohibiting the importation of FMD susceptible animals and products derived from FMD susceptible animals. The USDA had previously suspended imports of ruminants and ruminant products because of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the European Union. Due to this recent FMD outbreak, the USDA has also prohibited all imports from the United Kingdom of swine and swine products that have not been cooked or processed to ensure inactivation of the virus. The USDA notifies the US ports that routine restrictions for an FMD country have been imposed. These restrictions include prohibiting the entry of animals and animal by-products, and also hay, straw, and grasses. The military is notified regarding the potential for introduction through movements of military personnel and equipment from FMD-suspect or confirmed countries.

## What can you do?

Producers and their veterinarians will be the first to see and suspect a foreign animal disease incursion. Many suspicious reports of oral blisters in livestock are due to feed-related mechanical trauma, but each report must be investigated as a potential foreign animal disease. Any delay in reporting and determining the diagnosis could result in further spread of the infection.

- Promptly report any suspicious clinical signs to your veterinarian.
  - Sudden, unexplained death loss
  - Severe illness affecting a high percentage of the animals in a herd or region.
  - Blistering around an animal’s mouth, nose, teats, or hooves.
- Foreign travelers arriving in the US and producers visiting foreign countries should be careful not to expose US livestock to FMD or other foreign animal diseases. Specifically, travelers that have visited livestock facilities in other countries should not visit US facilities for a minimum of 10 days after they return. Consult your veterinarian or animal health official for specific biosecurity recommendations for foreign travelers.
- Consult your veterinarian about routine biosecurity measures that can minimize the risk of disease introduction to your facility.
- The following brochures are available from the Animal Health Branch:
  - Biosecurity Tips for Foreign Travelers
  - Protecting the Health of California’s Animal Agriculture
  - Biosecurity Tips – Selection and Use of Surface Disinfectants
  - Handwashing
  - Swine Biosecurity

Producers, private veterinarians, and federal and state animal health officials must work together to maintain the FMD free status of the US and protect our country’s animal agriculture.

## For more information, contact:

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<b>USDA Area Office</b>	<b>(916) 854-3900</b>

or toll free (877) 741-3690

Or visit the Emergency Programs website at:

[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/animal/animal\\_health/ahweb/emergency%20program.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/animal/animal_health/ahweb/emergency%20program.htm)

USDA website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/>