

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

A Special Notice from the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

With the recent outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in Europe, you should know that this disease is a severe and highly transmissible viral disease of cattle, swine, sheep, goats, deer and other cloven-hoofed animals. As livestock producers, please be prepared to take every precaution to prevent the spread of this disease here in the United States.

FMD is characterized by fever and blisters followed by erosions on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats, and between the hooves. Although the disease is not fatal, it leaves animals debilitated and causes severe losses in the production of milk and meat. FMD is most commonly introduced through the movement of animals, but can also be spread by people and materials that come into direct physical contact with susceptible animals.

In order to protect the health of your animals and the livestock of New York, the following precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of this virus and other diseases onto your farm.

MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS

- When a new animal moves onto your farm, be sure that you know the health status and the source of the animal.
- If possible, new additions or animals returning to your farm after going to a show or sale should be separated from the rest of the herd for at least two weeks.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

- International visitors should declare to customs if they have been on a farm, in contact with livestock, and the presence of meat, dairy and other animal products.
- If possible, exclude international visitors from your farm for at least five days after their arrival in the United States.
- Ask international visitors to provide information about recent farm and animal contacts.
- Clothing worn on farms in other countries should be washed and footwear should be disinfected.
- No visitors with soiled clothing from another farm should be allowed on your farm.
- Do not allow animal products, clothes, luggage, cameras and other items from affected countries onto your farm.
- Discourage walking through feed mangers and physical contact with animals by international visitors.

FARM TRAFFIC

- Have one common entrance/exit onto your farm with disposable boots or a disinfectant footbath provided.
- All footwear should be disinfected before entering and after leaving an animal housing area.
- Keep vehicles, such as milk, feed and livestock trucks, from driving through areas where animals and feed are kept.



For More Information on Foot and Mouth Disease,
call the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
at 1-800-554-4501 or check the following websites for FMD information:

<http://agmkt.state.ny.us>

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

<http://www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/footandmouth/>