



The Spread of Hoof and Mouth Disease

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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The following information is not a definitive guide to government legislation and does not release users of this document from their responsibilities under applicable legislation.

What is Foot and Mouth Disease?

Foot and Mouth Disease is a severe, highly communicable viral disease of cattle and swine. It also affects sheep, goats, deer and other cloven-hoofed ruminants. Elephants, hedgehogs and some rodents are also susceptible to the virus, but do not develop clinical signs of the disease. The disease is characterized by fever and blister-like sores on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats and between the hooves. Many affected animals recover, but the disease leaves them weakened and debilitated.

How is it spread?

Animals, people or materials can spread Foot and Mouth Disease. An outbreak can occur when:

- People wearing contaminated clothes or footwear, or using contaminated equipment, pass the virus to susceptible animals;
- Animals carrying the virus are introduced into susceptible herds;
- Contaminated facilities and vehicles are used to hold and move susceptible animals;
- Meat or animal products infected with the virus or raw or improperly cooked food waste containing infected meat or animal products is fed to susceptible animals;
- Susceptible animals are exposed to contaminated materials such as hay, feed, water, semen or biologics.

What can Industry do to help prevent this disease?

In an effort to protect the current health status of our national livestock population, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency requests that the following precautions be observed:

If you travel:

- Declare all meat, dairy or other animal products that you want to bring back to Canada;

- If you visited a farm while abroad, make sure that the clothing and footwear you wore during your visit are free from soil or manure. Clean and disinfect your footwear. Dry cleaning of clothes is recommended;
- Anyone who has recently been in the United Kingdom or Europe should stay away from Canadian farms for 14 days (as recommended by The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)) after returning to Canada. Although humans are not susceptible to Foot and Mouth Disease, they can serve as carriers;
- Prior to entering farmland for exploration purposes, Industry should take additional sanitary precautions such as washing and disinfecting all personal effects and equipment that may have been contaminated. It is particularly important to clean and disinfect footwear.

Recommended Disinfectants

Two effective and safe disinfectants are recommended:

- Virkon (powder) is an oxidizing agent and an excellent disinfectant active against all virus families. The recommended dilution rate is 20g/litre, with a contact time of 10 minutes;
- Citric acid (powder) is an acid based disinfectant that is safe for clothes and body decontamination. Especially useful for FMD virus decontamination. The recommended dilution rate is 2g/litre, with a contact time of 30 minutes;
- It is recommended that the disinfectant in baths and mats be changed or recharged when they are visibly contaminated with organic materials (e.g. soil);
- One-Stroke is no longer recommended.

Canada is recognized for having one of the safest food supply systems in the world. The Government of Canada works with other levels of government, consumers and industry to protect the food supply and the health and well being of all Canadians.

Canada has been free of FMD since 1952. Further information on FMD is available on the CFIA website at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/> by calling toll free at 1-877-227-0677. (Hours of Operation – 8:00am to 8:00pm) TDD/TTY: 1-800-465-7735.