



- **YOUR MEAT AND MILK ARE SAFE.**

- Public health experts, including those with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization, agree that FMD is not a threat to food safety or public health.
- Meat and pasteurized milk products from animals with FMD are safe to consume.
- In general, you should always follow safe handling and cooking instructions and drink pasteurized milk to protect your family's health.

- **FMD IS A SERIOUS ANIMAL DISEASE, BUT IT IS NOT A PUBLIC HEALTH OR FOOD SAFETY CONCERN.**

- The FMD virus only affects animals with cloven (or divided) hoofs, such as cattle, sheep, swine, and goats. It does not affect horses, dogs, or cats.
- FMD is not the same as Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD), a common childhood illness. Although the names are similar, the two diseases are caused by very different viruses, according to the CDC. The CDC clearly states that HFMD is not transmitted to or from pets or animals.

- **THE LIVESTOCK COMMUNITY IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH USDA, VETERINARIANS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO QUICKLY CONTAIN THE DISEASE AND MINIMIZE THE IMPACT.**

- This is necessary to protect the economic viability of the beef, pork, and dairy industries and provide consumers worldwide an affordable, steady supply of milk and meat.
- As soon as officials identified a high probability of an FMD case, quarantines of affected herds, livestock movement restrictions, and other actions would be put into place.
- Farmers and ranchers closely monitor their animals for signs of illness, report possible cases, and keep track of visitors to their operations. Right now, they're following additional precautions to prevent the spread of this disease.
- Working together, we can contain FMD as quickly as possible.
 - If you live in or near an FMD control zone, please respect local travel restrictions to help contain the outbreak.
 - You can stay up to date on the latest developments regarding the outbreak at www.usda.gov or www.footandmouthdiseaseinfo.org. The livestock community has a communications plan to ensure that information flows among government agencies, industry, and consumers.

- **FARMERS AND RANCHERS ARE COMMITTED TO CARING FOR THEIR ANIMALS. PROTECTING THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF HERDS IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.**

- Containing the FMD outbreak is essential to protect the health of the pig, cattle, sheep, and goat herds throughout the country.
- Farmers and ranchers follow industry-wide, science-based animal care guidelines already in place, such as those created by Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management, the pork



industry's PQA (Pork Quality Assurance) Plus® certification and on-farm audit program, the sheep industry's Sheep Care Guide, and the beef industry's Guide for the Care and Handling of Cattle, developed through the Beef Quality Assurance program.

- **USDA HAS DETERMINED THAT THE QUICKEST, MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT MORE ANIMALS FROM GETTING SICK IS TO HUMANELY EUTHANIZE AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF LIVESTOCK IN TARGETED AREAS.**

- This is a very emotional and difficult time for livestock producers.
- State and local officials are euthanizing these animals in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines for euthanasia under the guidance of USDA veterinarians and state animal health authorities.
- The goal is to euthanize as few animals as possible.
- Vaccination is not a treatment for already infected animals.

- **VACCINATION**

- No universal animal vaccine exists for FMD. FMD has multiple serotypes and subtypes and each subtype requires a unique vaccine.
- Vaccination is not a treatment for animals that are already infected.
- Meat and milk from animals vaccinated for FMD is safe to consume.
 - All vaccines are rigorously assessed for safety to establish instructions for safe use. Vaccinated animals do not enter the market unless proper use guidelines have been followed and the approved length of time since the vaccination was given has passed.
 - Farmers and ranchers routinely vaccinate their animals for many diseases and the vaccines are not detectable in meat and milk.
 - In countries where FMD is endemic, livestock are routinely vaccinated and those animals are used for millions of tons of meat and milk by people around the world.

- **USDA'S REQUEST FOR RETAILERS TO DISCARD CERTAIN MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTS IS NOT A FOOD SAFETY PRECAUTION BUT RATHER HELPS PREVENT DISEASE SPREAD AMONG CLOVEN-HOOFED ANIMALS.**

- The meat and milk is not a risk to humans, but products could spread the disease to other cattle, sheep, swine, or goats.
 - Preventing spread of FMD will save animals' lives and prevent further economic damage.
- No one has ever gotten FMD from consuming pasteurized milk or dairy products.
 - Pasteurization methods used in the United States effectively control potential pathogens, including the FMD virus.

- **BIOTERRORISM**

- Farmers and ranchers vigilantly follow safety measures and precautions to protect their herds.



FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) TALKING POINTS

- Farmers and ranchers are controlling all unnecessary traffic on their operations and taking extra precautions to disinfect tires, boots, and other items that could transmit the disease. As always, livestock treatment and handling equipment are being kept in sanitary condition.
- Farmers and ranchers have been asked to keep newly purchased animals separate from the rest of their herd until they can confirm those animals do not carry the FMD virus.
- Visitors who have visited a farm or had any contact with livestock on their trip should avoid all contact with livestock, zoo animals, or wildlife for 5 days after return to the United States. All farm visitors are required to wear disposable outer coveralls and disposable plastic footwear or disinfect their boots appropriately.

• **FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)**

- FMD is a completely different disease than BSE, which is often called “Mad Cow Disease.” FMD severe, highly contagious viral disease. BSE is not contagious, and is attributed to a protein called a prion.

• **THE EFFECT OF FMD ON HUMANS**

- FMD is not considered a public health threat; however, those who have been in contact with FMD-infected animals and fail to follow proper biosecurity measures may carry the virus between livestock.
- FMD infections in humans are extremely rare; only about 40 cases have been diagnosed worldwide since 1921.
- The disease in humans is generally mild and short-lived.

• **SPECULATION WITHOUT A CONFIRMED OUTBREAK: NO CASE OF FMD HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AT THIS TIME.**

- Although the United States has been FMD-free since 1929, the disease has been diagnosed in more than 100 other countries. The livestock industries and government officials have learned from overseas experiences with FMD and have a plan in place to respond if it's diagnosed.
- USDA's National Animal Health Surveillance System monitors for livestock diseases such as FMD. In addition, farmers and ranchers closely monitor their animals for any signs of illness and contact their veterinarian if they suspect FMD.
- The USDA, U.S. Customs, state animal health officials, and the livestock community are working closely together to keep the disease from affecting U.S. agriculture.