



What is Foot and Mouth Disease?

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease which affects cloven-hoofed animals such as sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, llamas, alpacas and deer. It can be spread from one animal to another by breathing and also via saliva, mucus, milk, and faeces. The virus can be carried on wool, hair, grass, straw, footwear, clothing, livestock equipment and vehicles. It can also be spread by wind. FMD does not infect people and other animals like horses, dogs, cats and birds.

FMD rarely kills adult animals, but because recovery is often prolonged and infected animals spread the disease rapidly, quarantine combined with the slaughter of affected animals is often the only viable method of control.

FMD has never occurred in New Zealand. In 2001, FMD occurred in the United Kingdom and is estimated to have cost the United Kingdom £4-6 billion and resulted in 8.5 million sheep and cattle being killed. FMD has also occurred again in the UK in 2007, in Japan in 2010 and the Republic of Korea in 2010. The direct costs of the Korean outbreak were estimated US \$2 billion and 3.37 million pigs, cows, goats and deer have been killed. It is estimated that the cost of a FMD outbreak to New Zealand would be at least \$10 billion. FMD is found in Africa, many Asian and some South American countries.

Why is it so important?

FMD affects many animal species and spreads rapidly before animals show signs of disease, potentially infecting many farms before the first case is detected. Most of our trading partners will stop importing animal products from New Zealand if an outbreak were to occur. They will probably only start importing several months after New Zealand is again declared free of FMD.

What precautions can I take to prevent an FMD outbreak?

If you have visitors to your farm that have been in a FMD infected region or country, do not allow them to go near any livestock for seven days from the time of last contact with animals or infected places overseas.



Two-day-old ruptured blisters on tongue, lower gum and lower lip of a steer

What should I do?

Keep a close watch for symptoms of FMD so that you can detect the disease early and help reduce the spread of the disease.

The symptoms vary in different species:

CATTLE

- Slobbering and smacking the lips.
- Shivering.
- Tender feet with sores and blisters.
- Raised temperature.
- Drop in milk yield and sore teats.



Steer's foot

REPORT ANY SYMPTOMS IMMEDIATELY TO MAF BY CALLING THE EMERGENCY HOTLINE ON 0800 80 99 66



Two-day-old lesion on dental pad of sheep



Blisters on snout of pig

SHEEP AND GOATS

- In sheep signs may be variable, possibly sudden lameness, with a tendency to lie down but may be low grade lameness.
- Raised temperature.
- Blisters in and around the hooves and mouth.
- Generally off colour.
- In sheep and goats these symptoms may not be obvious and may be easily overlooked.

DEER

- Like sheep symptoms are generally mild.
- Raised temperature.
- Lameness and depression.
- Blisters in and around the hooves and mouth.
- Loss of appetite.

If your description leads MAF to suspect FMD, you may be advised to take the following actions before an investigator arrives on your property:

- Muster and isolate the suspect animals.
- Muster animals in contact with suspect animals.
- Close all gates to the property and restrict movement of people and vehicles on or off the property.
- Avoid any contact with neighbouring stock.

PIGS

- Sudden lameness, with a tendency to lie down, squealing when attempting to walk.
- Raised temperature.
- Blisters in and around the hooves and snout.
- Loss of appetite.