



Foot-and-mouth disease: a threat to Australian livestock

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FMD at a glance

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a significant disease that can affect cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven hoof animals.
- Look out for signs of, drooling, blisters on feet and in the mouth and reluctance to move.
- Report any signs of illness immediately by calling 1800 675 888 or your local vet.
- Protect your farm now with good biosecurity practices. This includes ensuring that visitors to your farm have clean clothes and footwear.
- For more information visit: agriculture.gov.au/footandmouthdisease



Salivation in an overseas cow

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease affecting cloven hoof animals – cattle, pigs, sheep, buffalo, deer, camels, alpacas, llamas and goats. Horses are not affected by FMD.

FMD could enter Australia through meat, dairy products, contaminated soil, untreated hides, and on vehicles or equipment that have been in contact with infected animals. This includes contaminated material on clothing and footwear.

While there is no human health threat from the disease, if FMD enters Australia there will be severe consequences for animal health and the trade of Australian meat and livestock.

We take the threat from FMD very seriously and remain confident that our biosecurity settings are appropriate to manage the risk.

Good farm biosecurity is a critical layer of defence – if FMD does get across the border it can still be stopped from reaching our livestock. All Australian livestock owners should know how to protect their livestock and properties from the disease, the signs of FMD, and how to report it.



Ulcers on the snout of an overseas pig

Protection

To prepare and protect your animals:

- maintain strong biosecurity measures on your property, including keeping accurate records of visitors and livestock movements
- don't allow people who have visited FMD infected areas within the last 7 days to visit your farm or handle your livestock
- ensure all footwear, clothing and equipment of anyone visiting your property is free of mud, animal manure and mucus
- don't feed meat, animal products or imported dairy goods to livestock – this is actually an illegal practice throughout Australia as it can cause many illnesses in livestock animals.
- For free farm biosecurity advice and resources visit farmbiosecurity.com.au.



Foot lesion on an overseas calf



Mouth ulcers in overseas cattle

Reporting and symptoms

If your animals show signs of FMD, you must report it immediately.

Call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888, or your local veterinarian.

Keep an eye out for:

- drooling and excessive salivation
- reluctance to move
- blisters on the mouth, snout, tongue, lips or between and above the hooves. Blisters may be intact or rupture – exposing raw tissue and causing pain.

Keep up to date

The situation is rapidly changing. Keep up to date by visiting: agriculture.gov.au/footandmouthdisease

