

FMD Advisory for ISU Farms

What is Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)?

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is a severe, highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven-hooved animals, such as cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and deer. The disease is not a threat to human health.

It is caused by a virus that survives in the lymph nodes and bone marrow of animals. The virus can live in contaminated fodder (dry hay and other forages) for up to one month. It also can be carried many miles by the wind. There are at least seven types and many subtypes of the virus. U.S. veterinarians do not vaccinate against FMD and immunity to one type of virus does not guarantee immunity to another. FMD is not considered a human health risk, but humans can carry the virus on their clothing, shoes, and body and spread the disease to animals.

Why is FMD important?

FMD can spread quickly and widely. It causes severe losses in meat and dairy production and can jeopardize the livelihood of many farmers. Deer or other unconfined animals can spread the disease and greatly increase the difficulty of eradicating it.

FMD is one of the most contagious animal diseases. Animals can be infected through air and food. Humans do not get FMD but can spread it to susceptible animals. You may become a carrier by walking in a public park or field where infected animals have grazed. The soil on your shoes can carry the infection.

FMD can survive for long periods in meat (frozen, salted and cured meats included) as well as in improperly pasteurized dairy products. The highest risk of entry of FMD is through imports of contaminated meat or dairy products from infected countries. **Don't accept a gift box of meats and cheeses!**

Never feed garbage or table scraps to pigs!

Where is FMD?

FMD has been found in Africa, South America, Asia, and parts of Europe. North America, Central America, Australia, New Zealand and some countries in Europe are considered free of FMD. The United States has eradicated nine outbreaks of FMD, the last of which occurred in 1929. Since then, no cases have been reported in the United States.

FMD was detected in Great Britain in mid-February, and more recently it was found in France and Argentina. Because the virus spreads so easily, other European countries are taking drastic steps to avoid contamination. To keep the United States free of FMD, federal and state governments have taken aggressive action. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been monitoring for FMD for decades.

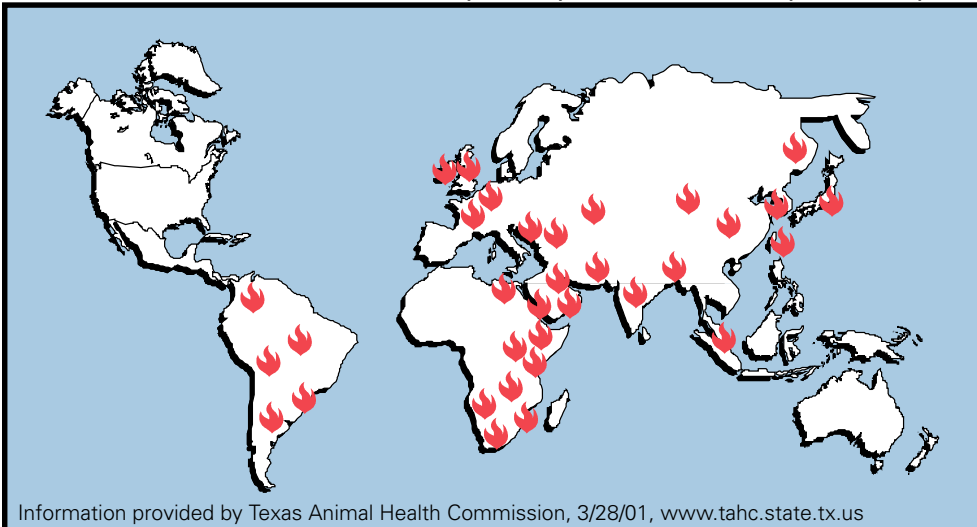
How should ISU faculty and staff handle requests for tours to ISU Farms with livestock?

1. Inquire whether the guests have recently visited a foreign country. If the guests have recently been abroad, politely state that, ***"Iowa State University has an FMD advisory in place stating that those who have recently visited foreign countries will not be allowed on ISU farms with livestock before taking part in a precautionary waiting period until the global FMD outbreak is under control."***
2. Those who have recently come to the United States or returned from a trip abroad should contact the International Ag office in 104 Curtiss Hall to participate in a **precautionary five-day waiting period** prior to visiting ISU farms.

This advisory was issued by the ISU College of Agriculture and Agriculture Experiment Station and reviewed by the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine. For more information contact Mark Honeyman, ISU Research Farms, 515-294-4621.

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Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreaks 1/00 to 3/01



Countries with recent FMD outbreaks (as of March 2001)

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|---------------|----------------------|
| Argentina | Namibia |
| Bangladesh | Netherlands |
| Brazil | Pakistan |
| China | Paraguay |
| Colombia | Russia |
| Egypt | Saudi Arabia |
| France | South Africa |
| Great Britain | South Korea |
| Greece | Swaziland |
| India | Taiwan |
| Ireland | Tajikistan |
| Japan | Tanzania |
| Kazakhstan | Turkey |
| Kenya | Uganda |
| Kuwait | United Arab Emirates |
| Malawi | Uruguay |
| Malaysia | Zambia |
| Mongolia | |