

DETECTING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN CATTLE

Many serious animal diseases are absent¹ in Canadian cattle herds, however, these diseases are present in many other countries and thus constitute a continued threat to beef and dairy production in Canada.

Of the diseases which are absent from the Canadian herd, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is of particular importance because it is an infectious disease that is transmitted rapidly from one animal to another and is easily spread between premises i.e., it is a highly contagious disease.

An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease would cause serious damage to the welfare of animals, industry vitality and our global trade presence.

Early detection is paramount as it can prevent spread and limit the size of an outbreak and thereby avoid devastating economic consequences for the entire cattle sector.

1 or 2 or 3 + 4 = DANGER

CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN IF 1, 2 OR 3 ARE OBSERVED TOGETHER WITH 4 IN several cattle in a pen and multiple pens of animals



Excessive salivation



Animals with vesicles (blisters) which progress to erosions



- Mouth (tongue, dental pad, gums)
- Muzzle, nostrils
- Teats



Painful lameness and reluctance to move

Feet:

- Blanching of the coronary band
- Vesicles in the interdigital space



Depression, fever, anorexia

Decreased performance
e.g. milk production, feed consumption

Swift Action Prevents Spread

Report immediately

If, after the clinical assessment, the veterinarian suspects the presence of foot-and-mouth disease, immediately notify:

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the provincial agriculture authority
NOTE: reporting is a legal obligation
- Your provincial industry association for assistance



Quickly secure the farm

As soon as there is a suspicion of foot-and-mouth disease, the following biosecurity measures must be implemented until the CFIA veterinarian arrives at the farm:

- Block any access routes to the site (e.g., with a gate, chain, vehicle)
- Contact product and service providers to cancel any scheduled visits
- Do not let any live or dead animal, waste, vehicle, or farm equipment leave the farm
- Ask everyone on the premises to remain on site until instructions are received from the CFIA

What to expect in the event of a Foreign Animal Disease

If foot-and-mouth disease is confirmed, the CFIA will order the destruction of affected animals and things under the *Health of Animals Act*. Such measures are needed to prevent the spread of the disease and protect export markets.

In such a case, the producer may be compensated for:

- The animals ordered destroyed
- Things ordered destroyed, such as contaminated feed and animal products
- The costs incurred for the disposal of animals ordered destroyed

Resource developed through the Animal Health Emergency Management (AHEM) project (www.animalhealth.ca)
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1. Serious animal diseases which are absent from Canada are often referred to as foreign animal diseases.
2. Image credit: Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine
3. Images credit: National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
4. Image credit: Rajeev Ranjan, Project Directorate on FMD, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine
5. Image credit: Faculté de médecine vétérinaire, Université de Montréal