



11 July 2022

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

FMD at a glance

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a potentially devastating disease that can affect cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven hoof animals.
- Look out for symptoms in livestock such as fever, drooling, blisters 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 looking for mud, manure and mucus on footwear, clothing and equipment of anyone who visits your farm.

For more information visit: agriculture.gov.au/footandmouthdisease

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

Since May 2022 we have been monitoring an outbreak of FMD in Indonesia, including the tourist destination Bali.

FMD could enter Australia through meat, dairy products, contaminated soil, untreated hides, and on vehicles and 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.

Australia has detailed response plans and arrangements in place to deal with FMD. So far, we have reviewed import permits for animal products from Indonesia that may carry FMD and have suspended those of concern. We have heightened awareness at borders, including increased vigilance around traveller flights arriving from Indonesia.

We are strictly checking for contaminated equipment and clothing, as well as all animal products brought in by travellers. We are also assisting Indonesia to help control the disease, including by supplying vaccines to Indonesian livestock producers.

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, and the signs and symptoms of FMD, how to report it.

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**

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:

- fever
- 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