

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) – FACTSHEET

NATURE AND OCCURRENCE

- An acute infectious viral disease of which seven types have been identified.
- Affects cattle, sheep, pigs and goats.
- FMD is endemic in parts of Asia, Africa, Middle East and South America with sporadic outbreaks in disease free areas.
- FMD is a notifiable disease and is OIE category A.

TRANSMISSION

- By consumption of infected material.
- By contact between animals.
- By movement of contaminated vehicles, equipment and clothing.
- By airborne spread.

TREATMENT

- None is allowed; all infected animals and those exposed to infection are slaughtered.

CONTROL

- The whole herd on an infected farm will normally be slaughtered.
- Animals on neighbouring farms may also be slaughtered. This is known as a “contiguous cull”.
- The movement of animals, people and all materials on infected farms and within a set geographical radius is strictly controlled.
- Restocking is strictly controlled by DEFRA and is only allowed after thorough cleansing and disinfection of the farm and when the area has been declared free of the disease.
- Vaccination may be used to control the spread.

COMPENSATION

- DEFRA pay 100% of the market value for slaughtered animals.
- A scheme for the disposal of non-infected livestock, on welfare grounds, may be set up. Payment is made by another Government agency, not DEFRA and the payment is not compensation for FMD.

INSURANCE

- Cover is usually available for consequential losses on referral to underwriters.

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