

## Biosecurity information for Agricultural Sector Travelers

The threat of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in South Korea, Japan, mainland China and Vietnam remains. Farms and ranches hosting visitors from countries affected with FMD or perhaps planning travel to affected countries need to be especially vigilant about biosecurity.

FMD is a highly contagious disease of cloven-hoofed animals. Cattle, swine, sheep, goats and members of the deer family can all be affected or carry the disease with minimal clinical signs. People in contact with livestock or wildlife in countries with FMD who may subsequently be in contact with livestock on farms and ranches in Canada must be particularly careful.

### The virus is spread to healthy livestock through:

- direct or indirect contact with infected animals. Fluid and scabs from FMD lesions (blisters) are highly contaminated with virus. Virus is also spread in blood, saliva, milk or manure
- food products (e.g. meats, cheeses, etc) that have not been properly prepared can be a source of infection

- contact with surfaces contaminated with FMD virus, for example: trucks, loading ramps and even roads
- feed made with ingredients derived from infected animals, or feed that has come into contact with infected animals
- contact with footwear, clothing or equipment contaminated with FMD virus. Under the right conditions, FMD may survive for weeks on soiled clothes and shoes
- contact with the airborne virus. Under favourable climatic conditions, air-currents will carry FMD virus long distances downwind from infected farms

## Important Information for Travelers

Special precautions are being taken at points of entry for residents returning to Canada after international travel and for visitors from countries affected with FMD. Visitors must inform Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers if visits to Canadian farms, shows or exhibitions where livestock are kept, are a part of their plans.

Travelers entering Canada are also required to declare all food, plants, animals and animal products. Animal products originating from FMD countries may be prohibited. Fresh and prepared meat products, embryos, semen, milk, hair, leather goods and skins from susceptible species can potentially carry FMD unless processed in a way to destroy the virus.

Travelers should ensure all clothing and footwear worn during visits abroad are free from soil or manure. Clothes should be dry-cleaned and, if dry-cleaning is not an option, they can be thoroughly washed and dried at high temperatures. Footwear should be cleaned and disinfected before visiting any farm, zoo or park. Ideally footwear worn in other countries should not be worn around livestock, zoos and wildlife

A general recommendation is to avoid contact with farm animals, zoos or wildlife for a period of seven to 14 days after returning to Canada.

Although domestic pets are not susceptible to FMD, CFIA recommends taking precautions for pets travelling from an FMD infected country. On return to Canada, pets should be thoroughly shampooed to eliminate any virus clinging to their coats.



## Biosecurity Measures

Normal production practices should include basic biosecurity measures geared to minimize the introduction and spread of all infectious animal diseases in the event of inadvertent exposure. A few important biosecurity measures include:

- restrict visitor access to animals
- where possible, limit contact between domestic and wild animals
- routinely clean and disinfect footwear, clothing and equipment
- record movement of people, animals and equipment on and off farms and ranches
- purchase animal replacements, feed and supplies from reputable suppliers
- isolate new animals and replacements for at least 14 days before introducing them into the herd
- anyone leaving a farm to attend another farm or an event where livestock are present should, as a matter of routine, ensure that footwear and clothing they wear has been properly cleaned and disinfected prior to departure and prior to returning home

- ensure staff - particularly those hired on a seasonal basis - are familiar with principles of biosecurity and protocols in place on the farm or ranch

## Why Is Biosecurity Important?

The appearance of FMD on Canadian soil could immediately shut down entire segments of our livestock industry. The economic and societal impact of FMD on a trading nation is devastating; disease control costs can be astronomical and recovery from outbreaks prolonged.

## For More Information

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