

Traveling Abroad?

Follow these guidelines:

- Avoid farms, sale barns, stockyards, animal laboratories, packing houses, zoos, fairs or other animal facilities for 5 days prior to travel.
- Before returning to the United States, launder or dry-clean all clothing and outerwear. All dirt and soil should be removed from shoes by thorough cleaning prior to wiping with a cloth dampened with a bleach solution (5 teaspoons of household bleach in 1 gallon of water). Luggage and personal items (including watches, cameras, laptops, CD players, and cell phones), if soiled, should be wiped with a cloth dampened with a bleach solution.
- Don't bring prohibited items to the United States.
- *Avoid contact with livestock or wildlife for 5 days after arrival in the United States.*

For More Information:

Contact your veterinarian or your county Extension agent.

More information can also be found at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's FMD Web site:

www.aces.edu/dept/extcomm/fmd/



www.aces.edu

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Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Keep It Out of Alabama!

Report Suspected Cases Immediately



USDA Veterinary Services
(334) 223-7141

State Veterinarian
(334) 240-7255

About Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly communicable viral disease of cattle and swine. It also affects sheep, goats, deer, and other cloven-hoofed ruminants.

The disease is highly contagious with nearly 100 percent of exposed animals becoming infected.

Many affected animals recover, but the disease leaves them debilitated.

FMD causes severe losses in the production of meat and milk. Because it spreads widely and rapidly and because it has grave economic as well as physical consequences, FMD is one of the animal diseases that livestock owners dread most.

There has not been an FMD outbreak in the United States since 1929. However, the disease is considered widespread in parts of Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America.

What FMD Looks Like

The disease is characterized by fever and blisterlike lesions followed by erosions on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats, and between the hooves.

After blisters form, drooling may be more marked and nasal discharge, lameness or both may increase.

Some of the following signs may also appear in affected animals:

- Temperatures rise markedly, then usually fall in about 2 to 3 days.

- Ruptured vesicles discharge either clear or cloudy fluid and leave raw, eroded areas surrounded by ragged fragments of loose tissue.
- Sticky, foamy, stringy saliva is produced.
- Consumption of feed is reduced because of painful tongue and mouth lesions.
- Lameness with reluctance to move is often observed.
- Abortions often occur.
- Milk flow of infected cows drops abruptly.
- Conception rates may be low.

When susceptible animals come in contact with infected animals, clinical signs of FMD usually develop in 3 to 5 days.

How FMD Is Spread

FMD viruses can be spread by animals, people, or materials that bring the virus into physical contact with susceptible animals.

An outbreak can occur when:

- People wearing contaminated clothes or footwear or using contaminated equipment pass the virus to susceptible animals.
- Animals carrying the virus are introduced into susceptible herds.
- Contaminated facilities are used to hold susceptible animals.
- Contaminated vehicles are used to move susceptible animals.

- Raw or improperly cooked garbage containing infected meat or animal products is fed to susceptible animals.
- Susceptible animals are exposed to materials such as hay, feedstuffs, hides, or biologics contaminated with the virus.
- Susceptible animals drink common source contaminated water.
- A susceptible cow is inseminated by semen from an infected bull.

Keep FMD Out of Alabama

You can help by doing the following:

- Watch for excessive salivating, lameness, and other signs of FMD in your herd.
- **Report immediately any unusual or suspicious signs of disease to your vet, to state or federal animal disease control officials, or to your county Extension agent.**
- If you suspect a problem, do not move animals that may be affected. Prevent visitors from entering your farm.

Your participation is vital. The disease can spread very rapidly.

Both the early recognition of disease signs and the prompt notification of veterinary officials are essential if eradication is to be carried out successfully.

Your warning may prevent FMD from becoming established in the United States, or, if it does spread, reduce the time and money needed to wipe it out.