



SADA UPDATE



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Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease

- be alert not alarmed -

Our sector is facing one of its most pressing challenges in decades with Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) spreading in our region. While critical not to panic, we must be on high alert given the absolute seriousness of this situation. It is challenging to report on the key issues amongst the increasing commentary, but it comes down to managing risk and there are three key risks.

1. The risk of FMD or LSD entering Australia
2. The risk of FMD or LSD entering your farm
3. The risk associated with maintaining business continuity if “the balloon goes up”

Australia has been preparing for a possible FMD incursion for many years, with the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan - AUSVET response plan - in place providing the detailed response process. In recent times Australian Dairy Farmers and Dairy Australia have led the review of the dairy components of this plan.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry maintains a comprehensive website with information regarding the disease and its management and control. This can be accessed at agriculture.gov.au/footandmouthdisease

1. Industry is working closely to support the Government in offering and providing assistance to combat and contain the current outbreak in Indonesia. The government has also introduced a range of additional measures in response to the presence of FMD in Bali. These include:
 - the return of biosecurity detector dogs in Darwin and Cairns Airports
 - additional signage and the distribution of flyers at major airports, informing travellers of FMD risk and precautions
 - expanded social media campaigns, informing travellers of their biosecurity responsibilities
 - additional training of airport biosecurity staff
 - enhancement of mail profiling and inspections
 - additional measures, including biosecurity officers boarding planes on arrival and playing a new biosecurity message on all inbound flights from Indonesia, reinforcing Australia's strict biosecurity measures and providing FMD-specific advice to travellers.
2. It is important that each business works to protect animals including in the following:
 - 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 farm biosecurity advice and resources visit biosecurity.dairyaustralia.com.au or farmbiosecurity.com.au

3. 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

In the event of an FMD outbreak, a national livestock standstill may be applied. This would require:

- Unless otherwise declared, approval will be required for all livestock movements, other than within the confines of a property or to contiguous properties, including across any public road.
- Apply enhanced animal biosecurity measures and enhanced monitoring for disease.
- Vehicle and visitor movements should be restricted.
- Necessary vehicle movements onto the property should have decontamination procedures applied.
- Apply strict biosecurity, hygiene and sanitation measures to potentially contaminated materials, including effluent, runoff and milk.
- Undertake personnel biosecurity measures.

Keep up to date:

On Friday, 22 July, Dairy Australia is hosting a webinar for farmers, processors and interested groups on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The webinar will cover what is currently being done to prevent a FMD incursion in Australia, what farmers can do now to increase their biosecurity measures on-farm (including what tools are available to use), and what the first few days of an incursion could look like, including a livestock standstill.

Participants are required to register to attend. Register [here](#)

SADA will keep members apprised of developments as further information comes to hand. If you wish to discuss these issues at any time, please call us.

Compiled with input from NFF, ADF, PPSA and Dairy Australia.

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