

Green Futures

Foot & Mouth Update at 13/9/07

CURRENT SITUATION

- One confirmed Infected Premise (IP), six linked holdings all being slaughtered
- One slaughter on suspicion on holding close to IP
- Final results on virus strain awaited
- Licences for dairy cows to be moved for milking and emergency veterinary treatment issued

The general license permits the movement along a public highway in a Restricted Zone (ie England outside the Protection and Surveillance Zones), from one part of a premises to another part of the same premises of dairy animals for milking for the production of milk intended for human consumption or for disposal (due to medicinal withdrawal or colostrum extraction) and of susceptible animals for the purpose of receiving veterinary treatment from one part of a premises to another part of the same premises using a public highway in a Restricted Zone, subject to the conditions in the Schedule.

Schedule - Conditions

- i) Any animal excreta deposited on public roads must be removed from the part of the road used immediately after the movement is completed.
 - ii) Where a vehicle is used to move the animals it must be cleansed and disinfected in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) Order 2003, before the first animal of a batch of animals to be moved is moved and again after the last animal of that batch is moved. More details: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd/pdf/gl-publichighway-milkvettreat.pdf>
- Licence to move animals from gatherings (market/shows) awaited (URGENTLY)

THERE ARE KEY MESSAGES

There are three disease factsheets on the Defra website that members might find useful:
<http://defraweb/footandmouth/about/index.htm>

In particular, it is important that the messages on biosecurity contained in Fact Sheet 2 are widely understood. Some of the key messages on biosecurity are:

- Avoid visiting other farms unless absolutely necessary and follow all the procedures explained here when you do.
 - Keep different species of livestock separate where possible.
- When handling your animals, be aware that sheep do not always show obvious signs of the disease and you could inadvertently infect other animals.
 - Keep everything clean (see biosecurity measures below)
- Make sure you have disinfectant and cleaning material ready at your farm entrance, so that essential visitors can disinfect themselves before entering the premises and as they leave.

A REMINDER WHAT CAN YOU DO & WHO CAN COME ONTO YOUR FARM ?

- **Visitors** - It is recommended that all non-essential visits to premises with susceptible farm animals should be suspended. If absolutely necessary, strict bio-security procedures should be followed as outlined below.
- **Contractors** - Defra insists that livestock operations such as shearing, foot-trimmers, cattle-scanners, AI specialists, dipping and sheep scanning are currently prohibited until a licensing system is in place.
- **Muck Spreading** - foraging and muck spreading operations are allowed. However, within the **protection and surveillance zones** these operations can only be carried out by the farmer on his own land, and not by contractors.
- **Inspections** - are allowed outside the **protection and surveillance zones**.
- **Grazing on Common Land** - Owners and keepers are encouraged to follow the bio-security guidelines.
- **Footpaths** - only footpaths within Protection Zone closed.
- **Farms in the protection and surveillance zones** - only **essential visitors** should visit any premises with farm animals. Contractors are prohibited from carrying out dipping, shearing and AI in PZs and SZs until a licensing system can be established. The animal keeper can carry out these practices on his own premises.

Biosecurity Measures:

- If direct contact with farm animals cannot be prevented then it is best practice to cleanse and disinfect protective clothing, footwear, equipment, vehicles etc. before and after the contact with the animals, or use disposable protective clothing.
- Any agricultural related vehicle or trailer entering or leaving a premises should be cleansed and disinfected on the outside and underside and include the tyres (whole circumference of the treads), wheel arches, mud guards and mud flaps of the vehicle. This must be carried out within the PZ / SZ.
- If non agricultural related vehicles are taken on to the premises they should, wherever possible, be parked on hard standing away from farm animals and must be cleansed and disinfected on the outside and underside (as above).
- Any person who tends any animal should not leave the livestock premises wearing the outer clothing and footwear which they wore whilst tending the animal unless that clothing and footwear have been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.
- All equipment used should be clean on arrival and on departure. Great care must be taken when cleaning electrical apparatus or tools. Where possible equipment should be protected from contamination e.g. using plastic bags. Health and Safety rules must be observed. Within the PZ / SZ where equipment can be cleansed and disinfected this must be done before entry to the premises and again on departure.
- Premises catering for Bed and Breakfast or farm tourism, it is advisable to keep visitors away from direct contact with farm animals and ensure as far as possible that they and their vehicles do not come into contact with animal excreta etc. Where there is contact with animals then hands should be washed and any contaminated clothing or shoes cleaned.
- Approved disinfectants can be found on the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/testing_disinfectants.htm

Trading Standards

Please see below for your local Trading Standards office number. They are available for advice, and gearing up for the issuing of licences when they become available.

Herefordshire - 01432 261908
Telford & Wrekin - 01952 381999
Staffordshire - 01785 277875

Shropshire - 01743 254131
Warwickshire - 01926 414040
Worcestershire - 01905 765709

RSPCA HOTLINE

The RSPCA is offering a telephone hotline to help farmers who are experiencing animal welfare problems caused by the nationwide ban on livestock movements. The hotline will give welfare advice, broker services between callers and if necessary will despatch frontline RSPCA staff who can visit and offer practical assistance to producers. The hotline number is 0870 753 8333. This is a telephone helpline for farmers and livestock owners, not the general public. Members of the public asking for unrelated advice (for example whether certain footpaths are open) should contact the Defra helpline.

DEFRA helpline 0845 933 55 77 - for all enquiries on FMD

SUPPORT

The Farming Help Partnership charities are working together to provide help and support farmers

- **Farm Crisis Network** (www.farminghelp.org.uk or 07002 326 326) provides pastoral and practical support as well as advice about other schemes
- **The ARC-Addington Funds**
(02476 690 587) cash grant scheme is available for business costs e.g. if stock have had to be housed and are eating winter fodder
- **Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution** has implemented its emergency procedures to ensure that all requests for help from farming families facing financial hardship as a result of the current foot and mouth movement restrictions will be processed without delay. The RABI emergency helpline number - 01865 727888 - is currently manned during office hours (with a message facility out of hours). All calls are treated in the strictest confidence. The emergency team will be monitoring the situation and 24-hour manning will be introduced if required.
- **Samaritans**- 08457 909 090

The Rural Hub-West Midlands network is here to help you

Contact details for county Hub co-ordinators:

- Herefordshire Rural Hub - 01432 870033
- Shropshire Rural Hub - 01939 262106
- Staffordshire Rural Hub - 01785 278581
- Warwickshire Rural Hub - 02476 858242
- Worcestershire Rural Hub - 01905 622940

Disclaimer --The West Midlands Rural Hubs network accepts no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any action taken in reliance on the information contained in this newsletter.