

CATTLE

WHAT IS FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE?

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease that affects cattle, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals. It is not the same as hand foot and mouth disease.

There are currently no cases of FMD in Australia. However, there have been recent outbreaks in Indonesia since May 2022. FMD typically spreads through close contact with infected animals or items that have been in close contact with the infected. In the case of cattle, FMD is usually transmitted from infected pigs.

WHAT DO I LOOK FOR?

The clinical signs of FMD in cattle include

- A high fever
- Decline in milk production (in dairy cows)
- Blisters inside the mouth that lead to excessive drooling and saliva
- Blisters on the feet which may cause lameness and reluctance to move
- Weight loss

If you see any of these signs in your cattle, you should report it immediately to either your local veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.



Blister above the hoof. Photo: Mark Stevenson



FURTHER INFORMATION
WWW.ANIMALHEALTHAUSTRALIA.COM.AU/FOOT-AND-MOUTH-DISEASE

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE**
1800 675 888

HOW DO I PREPARE MY FARM?

With FMD close to our borders, it's important to be prepared for a potential outbreak. Livestock owners should ensure that their farm biosecurity plan is up to date. The Farm Biosecurity Action Planner can guide you through this process.

SCAN HERE TO ACCESS THE FARM BIOSECURITY ACTION PLANNER.



You can also consider an online training course on FMD for further information on how to prepare for an outbreak.

SCAN HERE TO ACCESS ONLINE TRAINING COURSES



Blisters in the mouth, causing excess drooling. Photo: Mark Stevenson



Cattle tongue with burst blisters. Photo: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I BE AWARE OF?

In the event of an outbreak, a national livestock standstill would occur for at least 72 hours while authorities assess the situation. All animals susceptible to FMD cannot be moved off a property, unless the animals were already in transit, or a movement permit has been issued by the relevant authorities.

Australia has developed a response strategy to control and eradicate FMD should it occur in the country. These plans are reviewed and updated regularly based on the global situation and as new information becomes available.

Compensation for the death or destruction of property during an outbreak is determined by state/territory legislation and processes. Claims are assessed and paid for by the state or territory department of agriculture or primary industries.

SCAN HERE TO ACCESS THE AUSVETPLAN RESPONSE STRATEGY FOR FMD



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