



## Industry Biosecurity Webinar FAQ

August 4, 2022

### **What is the risk percentage of Foot Mouth Disease (FMD) entering Australia? What is happening at our border? What processes are in place?**

In June 2022, according to an expert panel there is a 11.6% chance of FMD reaching Australia in the next five years, which has increased from 9% prior to the disease being detected in Indonesia in May 2022.

At border processes have always screened passengers and mail arriving from FMD affected countries on a risk basis and we have managed to keep the disease out of the country for more than 130 years. Following the detection of FMD in Indonesia including Bali, existing measures have been strengthened and new measures were immediately imposed to protect Australia from an FMD incursion. These include:

- the introduction of sanitation foot mats at international terminals which will be mandatory for passengers arriving from Indonesia.
- the deployment 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 and targeted 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.
- risk-profiling 100 per cent of passengers that come into Australia from Indonesia
- targeted FMD announcement in airport terminals
- strengthened requirements for expanded foot bath use for livestock vessels while docked at Australian ports
- Eighteen (18) new biosecurity officers to be deployed to airports and mail centres across Australia.

#### ***Key resource:***

Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) website: [agriculture.gov.au](http://agriculture.gov.au)

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### **How costly could the spread of FMD be for the industry?**

An outbreak in Australia could have devastating consequences for our community in lost production, trade and tourism. A multi-state FMD outbreak would now have a direct economic impact of around \$80 billion (in 2020-21 dollars).

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## **Will there be a form of compensation for stock slaughtered?**

Yes, for some emergency animal diseases (EAD), such as FMD, compensation is available if the response requires humane destruction of infected animals.

The details of how this will occur are outlined in the AUSVETPLAN Operation Manual “Valuation and Compensation.”

The key policies and principles outlined in the document are:

- The main aim of compensation is to encourage early reporting of an emergency animal disease.
- Compensation is determined by state and territory legislation and processes.
- Compensation is not payable for consequential losses.
- The core objective of valuation is to achieve agreement between the owner and the state or territory on the level of compensation.
- Local market value is the primary basis for valuation.
- Consistent standard valuations should be used for non-stud and non-elite classes of stock.
- Stud, elite and high-value animals should be valued by trained, licensed valuers or value assessors.
- Disputes are settled by further discussions and agreement, disputes processes set out in state or territory legislation, or a variety of state or territory judicial processes.
- Cost sharing of response costs, including compensation is:
  - o Requested by the combat jurisdiction(s) and detailed in the Emergency Animal Disease Response plan
  - o Recommended by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal diseases
  - o Approved the National Management Group
  - o Managed and administered by Animal Health Australia, using the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement.

### ***Key resource:***

[The AUSVETPLAN](#) Operation manuals “Valuation and Compensation”

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## **How long should introduced livestock be quarantined before mixing mobs?**

Many livestock health concerns are not always obvious upon arrival and may have long-term implications if it is spread throughout your property or existing livestock.

Best practice is to isolate and quarantine new livestock from existing flocks and herds for 28 days. These new animals should be treated as infected regardless of their origin (purchased from a saleyard or property, and when returning from agistment).

During the isolation period, it is important that you monitor them for diseases and give them health treatments. This should include vaccinations, drenches and lice treatments to align with the current animal health routine on-farm- which need to occur prior to being introduced into the existing flock.

For some diseases, such as footrot and Ovine Johne’s Disease, they may not express symptoms within a 28-day isolation period. If you have determined these are a risk of introduction from your new livestock, it is prudent to extend this period and seek veterinarian advice.

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## **What are the current recommendations for veterinary practices regarding changes in biosecurity due to FMD?**

Veterinarian practices should be mindful of livestock biosecurity and should take appropriate steps to minimise the spread of diseases including maintaining good hygiene.

### **Key resource:**

[DAFF Emergency Animal Disease Guide](#)

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## **How will veterinary services be impacted for on-farm calls or in vet clinic needs?**

Government and industry recognise veterinary services will be stretched if there is an Emergency Animal Disease Outbreak.

We understand there will be impacts but are uncertain to what extent. Industry and government are working on preparedness activities to understand this better and support these vital services.

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## **What should horse owners be implementing to avoid spreading the disease to FMD susceptible species? (Mobile between properties)**

While horses are not susceptible to the diseases such as FMD, they are a fomite like other moving objects that could spread infection from property to property so horse owners should always be mindful of biosecurity for pest, weeds and disease and follow the mantra “come clean, stay clean, go clean.”

In the case of FMD infected properties there will be restrictions on horse movements like other animals or equipment that may spread the disease.

Considerations for horse owners moving between properties include:

- Talk to properties landholder regarding their biosecurity requirements for entry to their property.
  - Clean horse hooves between properties
  - Try to remove horse manure where possible
  - Clean equipment such as horse floats before entering property and be mindful of where any excrement is left.
  - Park horse floats in designated areas
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## **Are there any recommendations by PIRSA, Animal Health Australia that producers do not take their sheep or cattle to the Royal Adelaide Show?**

Livestock events have heightened risk in terms of potential opportunity for disease transmission as these events usually have multiple livestock species located in a small area that are then exposed to large amounts of the public. Producers should be practicing good biosecurity if attending the show.

While there isn't Foot and Mouth Disease or Lumpy Skin Disease in Australia the recommendation is that producers need to ensure they are practicing good biosecurity if they are attending the show.



Biosecurity practices are always in place during the Royal Adelaide Show. Measures have been taken to enhance biosecurity at the Royal Adelaide Show to reduce the risk of animal diseases, including exotics such as foot and mouth disease.

Everyone attending the Show needs to play their part by following the recommended good biosecurity practices, including wearing clean clothing and footwear when they visit.

Foot mats will be available at the Showgrounds entrances to help people disinfect their shoes. Boot cleaning facilities will be available in the livestock pavilions. Signage will be put up in key areas, such as the entrances and the livestock areas, to help showgoers understand what they can do to reduce the risk of spreading animal diseases.

All animals are checked on arrival and monitored throughout the Show by PIRSA and private veterinarians. This includes stock clearances for interstate animals, health statements and ID tags.

***Key resources:***

Animal Health Australia has prepared a resource that can help manage your disease risk at ag shows [here](#).

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**Have policies or procedures been developed re Movement Closures, Infected Properties, Suspect properties, and trace properties?**

Please refer to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and AUSVETPLAN's for details of these policies and procedures.

***Key resource:***

The EADRA is a unique contractual arrangement signed in 2002 that brings together the Australian, state and territory governments and livestock industry groups to collectively and significantly increase Australia's capacity to prepare for—and respond to—emergency animal disease (EAD) incursions.

<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/eadra/>

AUSVETPLAN contains the nationally-agreed approach for the response to emergency animal disease (EAD) incidents in Australia. The plan is captured in a series of manuals and supporting documents

<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan/>

These documents guide what will happen in the event of an Emergency Animal Disease. These have been recently reviewed by industry and government to ensure they are up to date.

Livestock SA Factsheet "[What to expect in an emergency animal disease outbreak](#)"

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**If it is identified in SA, why eradicate when there is an effective FMD vaccine? What is its role. Will it be used in a proactive role or a reactive role?**

Vaccines will be considered as one of the potential strategies for disease control for a FMD incursion but will be dependent on the nature of each outbreak and will vary depending on critical factors.

***Key resource:***



Please review the DAFF website for more information on the [FMD vaccine policy here](#).

The ABC has an article that provides further details regarding the [use of FMD vaccines](#).

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### **Foot and Mouth Disease signs in goats**

The symptoms for FMD are similar across all susceptible species including cattle, pigs, sheep, buffalo, deer, and camelids. However, in some species such as goats and sheep the symptoms might be more subtle.

Affected goats with FMD may:

- seem depressed
- develop sudden lameness
- be reluctant to stand
- have blisters form around the top of the foot and between the claws
- have lesions on the tongue and dental pad (hard to detect).

#### **Key resource:**

Please review the DAFF website for more information on the [FMD for Livestock Producers](#).

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### **What would the radius be from a detection site in which all prone animals would be destroyed?**

This will vary depending on the disease but for FMD according to the AUSVETPLAN only susceptible animals on an infected property will be destroyed.

There will be designated areas set up around the infected property that will have restrictions placed on them which will be subject to surveillance activities.

#### **Key resource:**

[The AUSVETPLAN](#) Disease-specific document “Foot and Mouth Disease” outlines what you might expect.

Livestock SA factsheet on “[What to expect in an emergency animal disease outbreak](#)”

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### **We're implementing foot and vehicle disinfectant baths. Looking for clear advice as to the correct disinfectant to be using.**

Producers can find advice in the Animal Health Australia’s AUSVETPLAN Disinfectant manual in the section under operational manuals.

#### **Key resource:**

[The AUSVETPLAN](#) Operational Manual “Decontamination”

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**Regarding on property biosecurity - my question relates directly to public road corridors that traverses properties. Eg. The Stuart Highway, Unsealed Road Network. These road networks are unfenced. The travelling public pull off to camp at points of interest or those that venture away**



**from those public roads - how can producers monitor (control) such movement - especially on the large runs in the north?**

This is recognised as a significant challenge and best efforts are encouraged to manage these travellers.

Livestock SA understands there was a campaign to raise awareness of this issue with travellers and will follow up on the progress.

Where possible, use biosecurity signs to demonstrate that public are entering a property, that there are biosecurity requirements and should require to contact the landholder.

**Key resources:**

These signs can be produced by a sign writer and a template can be [found here](#).

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**What resources will be implemented to grow public awareness in the outback?**

This is currently under review.

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**Are there any proactive steps producers should or could be putting in place now to do their part to minimise the impact of FMD or LSD in their businesses if it does get here?**

Producers have a responsibility to uphold their on-farm biosecurity practices, maintain a current biosecurity plan and comply with all traceability legislation including compliance with National Vendor Declarations and National Livestock Identification System.

There are a lot of resources available to help producers.

**Key resources:**

[Livestock SA web page and key fact sheets](#)

[Farm Biosecurity Website](#)

[Integrity Systems Company web page](#)

[PIRSA One Biosecurity](#)

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**If FMD detected, how long will the livestock standstill go for? what's the common time frame?**

In the first instance a Livestock Standstill for FMD will be a minimum 72 hours. This timeframe will be extended depending on the outbreak and how effectively livestock can be traced through the system. It is recommended that producers are prepared to hold animals for several weeks.

**Key resource:**

Livestock SA factsheet on "[What to expect in an emergency animal disease outbreak](#)"

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**What steps are being undertaken to educate/engage smaller enterprise types in the peri-urban interfaces (i.e. hobby farms)? These enterprises are usually not active participants in the livestock sector in respect of animal husbandry, NLIS, PIC registration**

This is under review however PIRSA continue to communicate with this group through their PIC registration details.

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**Is there an indication as to the cost of the vaccine and is subsidised at all**

No, there has not been anything published about cost of vaccines and any subsidisation.

However, Vaccine used for the purpose of a response is likely to be covered under the response agreement.

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**How well described is the feral susceptible species in SA and how would PIRSA approach controlling FMD spread via feral species?**

PIRSA are actively working on programs to manage and eradicate feral species, including pigs, deer, and in some area's goats. These animals pose a risk in an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease and will be included as a part of the control program.

The AUSVETPLAN Wild Animal Response Strategy outlines procedures to manage wild animals in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak such as FMD. The type and extent of any control activities during an outbreak response would be determined on what is the most effective method of control depending upon species, the density of animal population being targeted and the terrain. It is likely a co-ordinated approach involving a range of techniques will be used.

Livestock producers are also advised that they should put measures in place, where possible, to prevent feral animals coming into contact with their stock. This could include making sure boundary fences are in good order and developing a wild and feral animal control program.

Pest animals are declared under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, and for most feral animals' species there are restrictions on keeping, moving, selling or releasing them. Landholders have a legal responsibility to control pest animals on their properties.

For more information on the list of declared animals in South Australia, including the legal requirements for each [pest animal species visit the PIRSA website.](#)

In South Australia, control programs are underway for two feral animal species that can be susceptible to FMD – feral pigs and feral deer.

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