

PROTECT YOUR FARM AGAINST FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

VARGA LAB
INFECTIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY

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What is FMD?

It is the most contagious viral disease of livestock that has caused massive production and financial losses to the US beef cattle industry. FMD is caused by 7 known types and more than 60 subtypes of the FMD virus. FMD is a foreign animal disease that does not affect public health or food safety.

Where is FMD?

FMD is not present in the US, Canada, Mexico, or Central America. However, it prevails in more than 2/3 of the world, including South America and can occur sporadically in any typically free area.

How is FMD transmitted?

Virus is spread through saliva, breath, milk, semen, urine, and manure of infected animals. Healthy beef cattle can get infected if they come into direct contact with infected livestock (cattle, pigs, goats, sheep) or with a person who has been in direct contact with infected livestock. Visitors travelling from countries where FMD is present could pose a risk by bringing infected animal products or footwear, clothes, vehicles, and equipment.

Why should beef cattle producers worry about FMD?

Even though FMD is not present in the US, the chance of its introduction to the US or Puerto Rico or the US Virgin Islands is possible through live animal or animal product trade or international travel. If FMD enters, the on- and off-farms movement and trade of beef cattle could stop in the entire nation. The whole herd is likely affected if one animal becomes infected and requires clearing out infected animals. Younger calves may die from heart disease. So, International exports of meat, meat products and byproducts completely stop for a period of time.

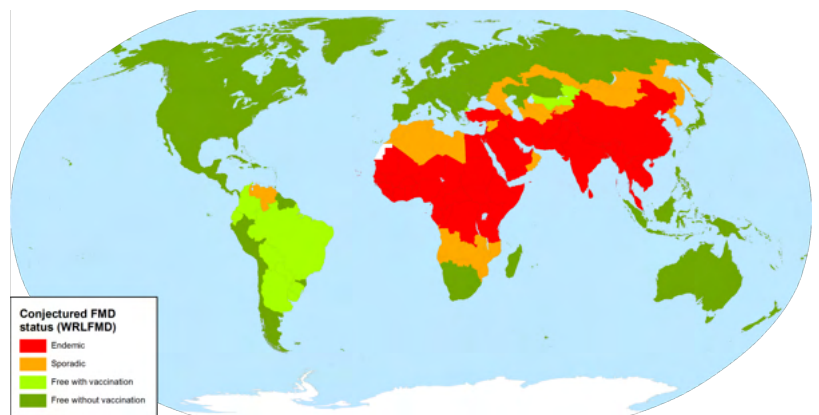


Image by the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, UK
https://www.wrlfmd.org/sites/foot/files/quick_media/Conjectured_2.png

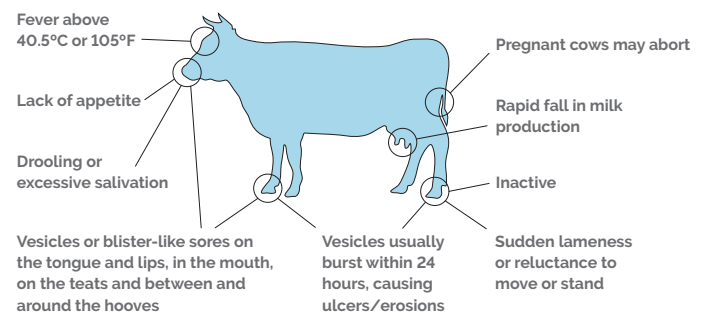
What can I do to protect my beef cattle from FMD?

There is no approved treatment for FMD. FMD vaccination is based on the types of FMD virus in that region or country. So, the vaccination strategy is only present in countries where FMD exists. These vaccines are not effective in preventing FMD from occurring in FMD-free countries. We can only prevent FMD by preventing its introduction into your farm. This can be achieved by implementing farm-level biosecurity:

- Prohibit unauthorized person's access to the farm, farm equipment and livestock.
- Do not permit visitors with a history of international travel, especially to countries with FMD.
- When traveling outside the US, make sure you do not bring the at-risk materials
- 5 DAYS** If you visited other farm or ranches internationally, DO NOT ENTER YOUR RANCHES OR GET CONTACT WITH ANY ANIMALS for 5-days.
- If you brought dogs and cats from FMD-present countries, isolate them for at least 5 days after returning to the US
- Maintain visitor log and permit only authorized persons into the farm.
- Require everyone entering the farm to shower and/or change into farm-specific boots and coveralls
- Buy beef cattle with known disease status.
- Quarantine incoming stock before mixing them with existing herds.
- Do not feed beef cattle food products for human consumption, including food waste from restaurants or domestic kitchens.
- SBS** Participate in the Secure Beef Supply (SBS) Plan
- FMD** Routinely test and monitor the herd for FMD.
- Consult veterinarians when suspecting signs and symptoms

When should I suspect FMD?

Know the signs and symptoms of the disease and contact your veterinarian immediately if you find any of these signs:



Signs or symptoms appear between 2-14 days of infection.

Who should I report to if I suspect FMD?

If you see similar symptoms in your herd and suspect FMD, immediately contact your veterinarian or report it to the **State Animal Health Department (217)-782-4944.**