

## Briefing Note

January 2025

# Protect Your Farm: Prevent Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

## FOR INFORMATION

### What is FMD?

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects all cloven-hoofed animals, including cattle. In Canada, FMD is a **reportable disease** under the Health of Animals Act. All suspected cases must be reported immediately to the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)**.

### Signs of FMD in Cattle:

- Fever
- Blister-like sores on the tongue, lips, mouth, teats, and between hooves
- Symptoms include animals off feed, lip smacking, grinding teeth, drooling, and lameness

---

### Review Your Biosecurity

A solid biosecurity plan can prevent disease outbreaks. Follow these steps:

- **Ensure all visitors and workers follow strict biosecurity practices.**
- Contaminated clothing, equipment, or food could introduce FMD onto your farm.

---

### For Travellers: Stay Informed, Stay Safe

#### Prevention Starts with You:

- **Avoid farm visits** in countries affected by FMD.
- Clean and disinfect clothing and belongings after international travel.
- **Delay contact with livestock** for **5 days** after travelling to an FMD-positive country or **14 days** if returning from a country without an official FMD-negative status.
- **Do not bring meat or animal products** into Canada.
- Declare all foods, plants, and animals to a **Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)** officer when entering Canada.

## Farm Precautions: Protect Your Herd

Canadian producers must take extra precautions:

- **Discourage farm tours for international visitors.**
- **Review and reinforce biosecurity protocols** for farm workers, suppliers, and visitors.
- Discuss travel plans with your farm employees, determine the appropriate downtime to be observed on your return, and plan accordingly!
- Access additional resources through **CCA Emergency Preparedness and Beef Cattle Biosecurity Standard**.

---

## Travel Tips: Prevent FMD Transmission

Before you travel:

- **Check for disease outbreaks** at agricultural sites you plan to visit.
- Avoid **direct contact with animals**, their waste, and feed.
- **Clean and disinfect** all items brought onto farms and wash hands thoroughly.
- Separate dirty clothes in a plastic bag and change into clean clothes after visits.

---

## After Your Trip: Stay Safe

- **Launder or dry clean** clothes, and disinfect footwear worn during farm visits.
- Follow **required downtime** before returning to work on your farm. A good rule of thumb is a **5-day** wait after your last farm visit.

---

## Get the Word Out

Do your fellow producers understand the importance of clean footwear and biosecurity? **Share this information** to help protect the agricultural community from FMD.

---

## Need More Info?

- [Beef Cattle Biosecurity Standard](#)
- [Verified Beef Production Plus \(VBP+\)](#)
- [beefresearch.ca/fmd](http://beefresearch.ca/fmd)
- [CCA Emergency Preparedness webpage](#)

Let's work together to prevent FMD and protect our farms. Stay vigilant, stay informed!