



# FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly-contagious viral disease which affects cloven hoofed (with two toes) animals including sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, llamas, alpacas and deer. It typically starts as a fever, followed by the appearance of blisters, mainly in the mouth and on the feet. It is very infectious and can spread from one animal to another by breathing and by saliva, mucous, milk and faeces. FMD does not affect humans or other animals such as horses, dogs, cats and birds.

FMD rarely kills adult animals but because recovery is often slow and infected animals spread the disease rapidly, quarantine (isolating animals away from others) combined with the slaughter of affected stock is often the only realistic means of control.

## WHY IS FMD SO IMPORTANT?

FMD affects many farmed species and spreads rapidly before animals show signs of disease, potentially affecting many farms before the first case is detected. Most of New Zealand's trading partners would stop importing animal products from us if an outbreak occurred. They would probably only re-start importing several months after New Zealand had been declared FMD-free. It is estimated an outbreak of FMD could cost New Zealand \$16 billion over four to five years. We need to find FMD early and stamp it out.

## YOU CAN HELP BY LOOKING OUT FOR THESE SYMPTOMS IN YOUR STOCK. THEY VARY IN DIFFERENT SPECIES.

### CATTLE

- » Drooling and smacking the lips
- » Shivering
- » Tender feet with sores and blisters
- » Raised temperature
- » Drop in milk yield and sore teats.

### SHEEP AND GOATS

Signs may be less obvious and potentially overlooked. They include:

- » Sudden (maybe low-grade) lameness with tendency to lie down
- » Raised temperature
- » Blisters in and around the hooves and mouth
- » Generally off colour.



Two-day-old ruptured blisters on tongue, lower gum and lower lip of a steer

### PIGS

- » Sudden lameness with tendency to lie down
- » Squealing when attempting to walk
- » Raised temperature
- » Blisters in and around the hooves and snout
- » Loss of appetite.

### DEER

Symptoms may be mild, as with sheep

- » Raised temperature
- » Lameness and depression
- » Blisters in and around the hooves and mouth
- » Loss of appetite.



Steer's foot

**IF YOU HAVE ANIMALS SHOWING THESE SIGNS, CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN, OR PHONE MPI ON 0800 80 99 66.**

If your situation leads MPI to suspect FMD, a skilled investigator will be sent to your property. You may be asked to take the following precautions before they arrive:

- » Muster and isolate the suspect animals
- » Muster any animals that have been in contact with suspect animals
- » Close all gates to the property and restrict the movement of people and vehicles on and off the property
- » Avoid any contact with neighbouring stock.

**PREVENTING AN FMD OUTBREAK**

- » MPI has robust biosecurity measures in place to prevent an outbreak and the disease has never occurred in New Zealand, but we cannot be complacent. Everyone has a role in keeping it out.
- » If you are travelling overseas, follow all biosecurity advice carefully and declare risk material on your arrival in New Zealand, as per your passenger arrival card. If you have visitors to your farm that have been in an FMD-infected region or country, do not allow them near any livestock for seven days from the time of last contact with animals or infected places overseas. Animal products can only be imported in line with importing requirements.

**REPORT ANY SUSPECT FMD SYMPTOMS IMMEDIATELY TO MPI BY CALLING THE FMD EMERGENCY HOTLINE: 0800 80 99 66.**



Two-day old lesion on dental pad of sheep



Blisters on snout of pig

[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)