

# Old McDonald has a farm.

## Let's keep it that way.

**Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a serious and highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals. This includes livestock such as cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, deer and camelids including camels, llamas and alpacas. Horses are not susceptible to FMD.**

The Queensland Government's commitment to FMD prevention and preparedness activities reflects the significance of livestock industries to our state's economic livelihood as well as the serious socio-economic impacts an FMD outbreak would have for Queensland and Australia.

Well established plans are in place to deal with an FMD incident but surveillance for early detection and early reporting of the disease are critical in reducing the spread and severity of a disease outbreak.

FMD has not occurred in Australia since 1872, but it is common in some countries in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America.

Our proximity to Asia and increased globalisation intensifies the risk of virus introduction from infected countries to Australia.

The social and economic impact of an FMD outbreak would be severe and prolonged. A recent study estimates that a large, multi-state FMD incident could cost Australia more than \$52 billion in lost revenue over 10 years.

## FMD is a notifiable disease.

Under Queensland legislation, if you suspect FMD in any susceptible animal species, you **MUST** report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or contact the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

Queensland has implemented a Biosecurity Preparedness Program (FMD) to:

- Reduce the risk of FMD being introduced into Queensland, establishing and spreading.
- Improve surveillance and early detection of FMD.
- Increase capability and capacity to effectively and efficiently respond in the event of an outbreak of FMD.
- Minimise any adverse socio-economic impacts on industry, government and community.

### About FMD

FMD can cause severe disease, including formation of blisters in the mouths and around the hooves of affected animals that may result in lameness and excessive salivation (particularly in cattle), reduced milk yield and fever.

The disease is extremely contagious and multiple animals within the herd are likely to be affected at the same time, however they may not show the same clinical signs.

Prolonged or permanent production losses may result and in some young stock, the disease may be fatal.

**Be FMD aware. Be FMD prepared.**





It is important for livestock producers to regularly check their livestock and contact their veterinarian immediately if they notice clinical signs consistent with FMD in their livestock. Suspected cases of FMD must also be reported to Biosecurity Queensland.

The only way to confirm a diagnosis of FMD is through laboratory testing of samples taken from livestock by a veterinarian.

## Preventing FMD

### 1. Keep illegally imported food products out of Australia.

Australia has very strict quarantine laws and border surveillance systems in place to restrict FMD-susceptible animals or products from being imported.

However, illegal importation of contaminated food, in particular salted or cured meats, is considered to be the most likely means by which the virus will be introduced to Australia.

Travellers returning from overseas need to be vigilant about what they bring into the country and must declare all food, plant material and animal products on arrival in Australia to ensure they are free of pests and diseases. They must also declare if they have visited a farm while overseas.

### 2. Pig owners must not feed their animals swill.

Pigs must not be fed food or food waste containing meat; meat products; eggs; milk or milk products not of Australian origin; or anything that has been in contact with these items – the FMD virus may remain in food even after chilling, freezing, or inadequate cooking. This food is prohibited feed for pigs, commonly known as swill.

Examples include table scraps; restaurant waste; bakery products such as meat pies; sausage rolls; and bacon and cheese rolls; Caesar salad containing bacon pieces; eggs; milk or milk products not of Australian origin or illegally imported into Australia, and untreated used cooking oils and fats. Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia.

Swill may contain serious viruses that could infect pigs through feeding – this includes FMD. Swill feeding restrictions apply to all pigs, including pet pigs and pigs kept by hobbyists.

### 3. Report swill feeding.

Businesses that prepare and sell food have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately. Food waste that would be considered swill should be placed in an appropriate waste bin for collection and disposal.



If you suspect that swill is being supplied to pig owners or pigs are being fed swill, contact Biosecurity Queensland. Your report will be treated as confidential. Penalties for swill feeding, supplying swill or collecting swill with the intent to provide to a piggery are significant and can include fines and imprisonment.

## More information

Call **13 25 23**

Visit [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD) for more information and free FMD awareness and training materials.