

In the United States, we have recently experienced two outbreaks, one in poultry (Moscovy Duck Parvovirus) and another affecting horses, birds, and people (West Nile Virus) introduced from foreign countries.

**What are FAD's?**

They are any disease not currently in this country that, if introduced, would have serious implications. What would happen if a FAD were introduced into this country? Because the disease is not in our animal population, none of our livestock would have any immunity (protection) against the disease. A FAD would thus likely cause major losses due to illness, death, and suffering in our animals. Producers would lose money and consumers would be paying more for the products at the grocery store. Precious genetic stock may be lost. Trade barriers would be erected, causing tremendous financial losses. Previous outbreaks have cost millions. Some FAD's also affect humans, but, whether or not they do, they may affect consumer confidence in a food product.

**Why are FAD's a real threat?**

Today, we live in a global economy. Trade is an integral part of our agriculture economy, as well as our countries economy as a whole. People, animals and products move back and forth daily transported on planes, boats, cars or foot. Although the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Agency of USDA has import requirements in place to prevent introduction of disease, they are not fail safe. Also, illegal importation is a fact of life. Some of it is intentional and some is done out of ignorance, such as when a passenger brings meat products in from a country infected with hog cholera. USDA inspects garbage from international flights and ships and has beagles which inspect garbage at international airports to help prevent this. There is also the threat of bio-terrorism looming on the horizon.

**What are we doing to prevent the introduction of FAD's?**

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS), takes the threat of FAD's very seriously. Within VS, the Emergency Programs staff coordinates efforts to prepare for and respond to outbreaks of exotic animal disease. VS' Emergency Programs staff monitors FADs and maintains an intensive surveillance system aimed at rapidly detecting and diagnosing outbreaks of exotic disease in the US. This starts at the field level. State and veterinary labs and private practicing veterinarians form the first line of surveillance. They are tasked with looking for and reporting suspected FAD's.

Clues of FAD's include an usually large number of animals affected by a disease that does not fit a classic diagnosis or does not respond to conventional treatment. Sometimes many animals may die from the disease. The signs of disease may include vesicular lesions (blisters, especially in the mouth or on the feet and udders) or abortion storms, new additions, and/or a history of foreign travel or visitors on the farm.

If a FAD is suspected, the veterinarian reports it to the USDA, APHIS, VS office in Harrisburg, PA (717) 782-3442). From there, a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician will be deployed into the field to work with the private veterinarian and help determine if they are dealing with a FAD. USDA has laboratories in Ames, Iowa and Plum Island, NY where experts work to achieve a rapid diagnosis.

If a FAD is found, USDA stands ready to deploy an emergency response team to work with the state government, producer organization, and private veterinarians toward control and eradication of the disease. USDA's mission is to protect the United State's \$80 billion livestock and poultry industry. If you suspect a FAD on your farm, please contact your veterinarian immediately.

## *The 10 Steps to Mastitis Control*

1. Prepare cows properly for milking:
  - a. Use an approved udder wash sanitizer at recommended strength.
  - b. An optional method of udder preparation is pre-dipping with a dip labeled for pre-dipping.
  - c. Use single service paper towels, dry teats before machine application.
  - d. Apply machine 1 to 2 minutes after beginning of preparation.
2. Have a good milking system; milking equipment should be adequate in size, functioning properly, and regularly cleaned and maintained.
3. Apply and remove machine carefully:
  - a. Properly adjust to prevent liner slippage.
  - b. Remove machine when cow is milked out, shut off vacuum at claw before removal.
4. Dip each teat after each milking using a germicidal teat dip.
5. Monitor your mastitis score (DHI-SCC, WMT) regularly. Take action when significant increases occur.
6. Treat clinical cows, follow label recommendations, treat aseptically. Withhold treated cows' milk from milk supply.
7. Segregate chronic mastitis cows, milk them last, cull when necessary.
8. Dry treat each quarter using partial insertion techniques with an approved dry cow treatment at drying off.
9. Keep cows clean, udders free from soil and manure:
  - a. Fence off wet, swampy areas.
  - b. Keep free stalls and stanchions bedded properly.
  - c. Keep calving areas clean, properly bedded (straw preferred).
10. Properly feed and care for cows.

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