



## **ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION ADVISORY**

February 21, 2001

An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has been confirmed in pigs in the United Kingdom. This is the first such outbreak in the U.K. in 20 years.

The Canadian Pork Council advises all segments of the industry to ensure that precautionary measures are taken to ensure the disease does not enter Canada. Canada has been free of foot-and-mouth disease since 1952.

Foot-and-mouth disease is a severe and highly contagious disease of swine and cattle. It can be spread by animals, people or materials.

Canadian hog producers are urged to ensure that visitors from the United Kingdom (and other countries that have serious infectious livestock diseases) avoid **any** contact with livestock, farm equipment on a livestock operation, or animal feed, for at least one week (7 days), and preferably, two weeks (14 days) following their entry into Canada.

If visitors must come to the farm, they should take sanitary precautions such as washing and disinfection of all personal effects and equipment that has accompanied them. It is very important to clean and disinfect footwear. Dry cleaning of clothes is recommended.

Due to the change in the U.K.'s animal health status, the CFIA has reported that **it will not** issue further import permits for susceptible commodities from the U.K. coming into Canada; this includes swine embryos, swine semen, live swine, pork products and by-products.

The CPC is contacting the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to ensure the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency is reminded of their obligations to monitor visitors and Canadians returning from outside the country who may be visiting a farm within the next 14 days. The Council is also underlining the importance of enforcing controls on the disposition of food-containing garbage from incoming boats, planes and other transport vehicles.

If any questions remain, contact your local CFIA office.