



INDUSTRY ADVISORY

Ottawa - March 5, 2001. With concerns that the U.K. foot-and-mouth disease outbreak has spread to mainland Europe, livestock producers are being urged to take measures to ensure the disease does not reach Canadian farms.

"The foot-and-mouth disease outbreak is having a disastrous impact on the livelihood of U.K. farmers" said Edouard Asnong, President of the Canadian Pork Council - "We must do all we can to prevent the disease from entering Canada".

Foot-and-mouth is a very contagious disease that can be spread by animals, people or materials. It is absolutely essential that producers have stringent biosecurity protocols on their farms which include:

1. avoid, if at all possible, visitors to the farm from Europe;
2. if visitors must come to the farm, (or if someone from the farm has been to Europe) they must avoid contact with livestock, farm equipment and animal feed for at least 14 days;
3. only introduce animals from swine farms whose sanitary status is known;
4. only use semen from certified insemination centres;
5. have a double entry biosecurity system so that all people who enter the swine farm must pass through an entrance room where they must wash their hands, leave their clothes and shoes and put on clothes and boots suited to animal facility;
6. prevent vehicles that are not empty and clean from approaching livestock buildings;
7. do not use waste from food services as swine feed;
8. prevent access to buildings by wild animals and strays;
9. disinfect the material or equipment that may have been used on other livestock premises.

If you notice any signs of the illness in your swine herd, contact your veterinarian and/or notify the local office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The disease is characterized by fever and blisters in the mouth, on the teats and around the hooves. These lesions result in a reduction in food consumption, excessive salivation and significant lameness (consult: www.cpc-ccp.com/health).

The federal government compensates producers for animals ordered destroyed as a result of an outbreak of a reportable disease.

Canada Customs Offices are on alert to increase surveillance of passengers and baggage arriving on international flights. Disinfectant foot baths have been installed at all 14 airports that receive international flights. Canadian Food Inspection Agency is being increasingly vigilant in its activities to prevent the introduction of the disease. Additional information is also available on CFIA's Website at www.cfia-acia.agr.ca.

For further information:

Edouard Asnong
President
Phone: 450-248-2375

Martin Rice & Eric Aubin
CPC, Ottawa
Phone: 613-236-9239