

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP, GOATS, AND CAMELIDS

**SUBJECT MATTER: Policy Regarding Restocking Requirements and Eligibility
for Indemnity of Premises in a Control Area During a Foot
and Mouth Disease Outbreak**

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services define a foot and mouth disease (FMD) response policy on restocking of premises in control zones, specifically the infected and buffer zones. A policy should also be defined for any control areas established by the detection of FMD in wildlife and determine prior to an FMD outbreak which policies should be applied.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Developing policy during a foreign animal disease outbreak is challenging. It demands significant time and input from numerous stakeholders. It is essential that producers, along with state and federal regulatory officials, collaborate prior to a foot and mouth disease outbreak and engage in as much advance planning as possible.

During the 2022 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) implemented a new policy. This policy required premises located within the buffer zone to submit a biosecurity plan and undergo a virtual audit conducted by either a state or federal regulatory official. Compliance with these requirements was necessary for the premises to be eligible for indemnity if subsequently infected with HPAI. Premises located in the infected zone were not eligible for indemnity from USDA-APHIS-VS if the state permitted restocking.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

APHIS expects several key issues to remain part of ongoing discussions around FMD Control Areas.

First, any Control Area established by a wildlife-only FMD detection may be in existence for an extended length of time, due to the time it will take for wildlife biologists to perform wildlife surveillance, trapping, and determine if depopulation of wildlife in the Control Area (and Surveillance Zone around the Control Area) will be implemented.

Domestic livestock premises located in such a Control Area will have variable risk for FMD infection depending on the density of wildlife and the density and production type of domestic livestock in the area.

Second, Control Areas established by domestic livestock FMD detection are at risk of transmission by direct and indirect contact with the virus. Primary measures to contain an outbreak will focus on initial quarantine, site biosecurity, and contact tracing.

APHIS, USAHA, and stakeholders will continue to evaluate scenarios and biosecurity requirements for restocking and for premises eligibility for indemnity in a Control Area. APHIS agrees to work with USAHA and stakeholders to develop guidance on restocking premises in a Control Area.