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# **Korea, Republic of**

## **Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety**

### **Update on Korea FMD Outbreak - IV**

### **2000**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**The initial turmoil experienced in the wholesale market with the detection of the foot and mouth disease in Paju seem to be residing. Government officials should have a better handle on the extent of the disease spread by weeks' end. Stringent quarantine measures now in place are credited for bringing some stability to the market.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Seoul [KS1], KS

Since the first media report on the outbreak of the foot and mouth diseases (FMD) on March 27, the Korean government has depopulated a total of 198 head of cattle (105 dairy cows and 93 beef cattle) from 13 farms as of April 4, 2000. The Korean government is vaccinating herds in the surrounding areas and is not depopulating them.

According to media coverage, the restaurants that had seen an initial drop in sales of meat dishes claims to have returned to close to pre-FMD sales level as of April 5, 2000. This may be due to the aggressive campaigning of the Korean government in promoting the fact that it is safe to eat the meat, regardless of the FMD outbreak. Although, prices will have an impact on consumption, the concern whether it is safe to eat or not will have a bigger impact on the consumers purchasing decision. Therefore, the Korean government's policy to spur consumption by advertising the safety of meat products seem to be the appropriate decision. Other than initial media coverage of possible outbreak of FMD on a swine farm, so far there has not been any confirmed cases with the swine sector.

In the past, when the BSE case broke out, it took one month for the consumption to come back. However, with dioxin, where the media coverage was a bit more extensive, it took about three months for the consumption to come back to normal level. Therefore, if the FMD is determined as having been confined this week and from the recent wholesale prices, the consumption could return to normal within 1-2 months.

However, the impact on the import market needs further analysis. Post has heard from sources that some of the livestock processing centers are telling foreign pork suppliers that they will use domestic pork to support the domestic swine producers.

The attached table provides a picture of how the market prices changed since the first media coverage of the FMD outbreak.

## Korea: Wholesale Price Trend for Beef and Pork

Unit: Won per kilogram

Date	Beef	Pork	Remarks
March 23, 2000	6,961	2,774	
March 24, 2000	6,493	2,735	
March 25, 2000	6,901	2,715	
March 27, 2000	6,670	2,673	This is when the FMD outbreak hit the news.
March 28, 2000	6,433	2,725	
March 29, 2000	6,615	2,223	
March 30, 2000	6,438	2,301	
March 31, 2000	6,550	2,485	
April 3, 2000	N/A	2,374	

Source: National Livestock Cooperatives Federation