



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## United Kingdom

### Livestock and Products

### UK Foot and Mouth Update 2

### 2007

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**Report Highlights:**

The UK Government has today published an Interim Epidemiological Report. With just two cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) confirmed so far, the report gives the most likely scenario as the containment of the infection to the current area. Concern over a possible new case is abating and limited movements of animals are now being permitted under license outside the affected area.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
London [UK1]  
[UK]

For background to this report, please see GAIN Reports UK7018 and UK7017.

One week into the UK's outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), there remain just two confirmed cases, both in beef cattle herds, in close proximity to the Pirbright Laboratory site in the county of Surrey, England.

The UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has today published an Interim Epidemiology Report into the outbreak<sup>1</sup>. The report sets out the initial findings of the National Emergency Epidemiology Group who have been investigating the outbreak. Some key points from the report:

- It is very likely that the source of the infection is the Pirbright Laboratory site where Merial Animal Health Ltd and the Institute of Animal Health are located.
- The report reiterates the possible mechanisms for spread of the virus from the Pirbright site given in the earlier in the Health & Safety Executive report (e.g. windborne, waterborne, deliberate or accidental human transmission)
- It is unlikely that another infection from the original release of the virus will occur. However, further cases could arise from secondary spread.

Also today, the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, Debby Reynolds confirmed that the decision to vaccinate is being reviewed on a daily basis. However, given the findings of the epidemiological report, Defra do not feel that it is necessary to trigger this potential control mechanism at this time.

### **Related developments**

On August 9, a farm located outside the existing Surveillance Zone had a 3km radius Temporary Control Zone placed around it while laboratory tests were carried out. This followed an inconclusive on-site assessment of clinical symptoms by Animal Health veterinary staff. At the time of writing, Defra has yet to confirm the results of these tests, but media reports suggest that it is not FMD.

The national ban on movements of susceptible animals that was introduced following the first FMD case remains in place throughout Great Britain. However, following a veterinary assessment of risk, Defra has decided to permit the movement of live animals direct to slaughter and the collection of dead animals from farms. General licenses granted for these movements will only apply outside of the Protection and Surveillance Zones surrounding the two FMD cases. In addition, the licenses will not apply to the Temporary Control Zone surrounding the farm awaiting laboratory results.

To prevent acute animal welfare problems in the specific area of the Protection and Surveillance Zones, Defra has also decided to issue general licenses permitting the movement of feed and fodder within a farm, and the direct delivery to a farm of feed and fodder from outside the zones. In addition, burial of animals on the farm where they died will be permitted within the Protection and Surveillance Zones.

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<sup>1</sup> [Link to Interim Epidemiology Report](#)