



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 2/28/2001

GAIN Report #UK1008

United Kingdom

Livestock and Products

Confirmed Cases of Foot and Mouth Disease increase in the UK 2001

Approved by:
Thomas A Hamby
U.S. Embassy

Drafted by:
Phil Bicknell

Report Highlights:

The number of confirmed cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) continues to increase in the UK with eighteen cases confirmed thus far, spread throughout Great Britain. In ongoing efforts to contain the disease, the UK Government has announced it is extending a ban on the movement of livestock until 16 March. Amongst other moves, it has also given local authorities the power to close public footpaths and is discouraging people from visiting the countryside.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
London [UK1], UK

At close of business on Tuesday, 27 February the number of confirmed foot and mouth disease (FMD) cases in Great Britain stood at 18 (eighteen). The 6 (six) new cases confirmed on Tuesday were spread across mainland UK at sites in Anglesey, Lancashire, Northamptonshire, County Durham (2 cases) and Devon. The latest cases mean that the current FMD outbreak is more widespread than the last major outbreak in 1967. That outbreak, although more regionalized, affected 2,000 farms and led to the disposal of 442,000 animals.

Amidst continued concern about how far the disease spread prior to the implementation of the 7-day livestock movement ban imposed in Great Britain on Friday, 23 February at 1700 GMT, HMG has announced that quote movement restrictions that are so necessary to the control of the disease are to remain in place for a further fortnight at least, after the present measures expire at midnight this Friday unquote.

Additionally, MAFF have announced the development of quote a scheme to facilitate the movement of animals from farm holdings directly to abattoirs or a holding area where they will not come into contact with other farm animals unquote. The details have yet to be finalized by MAFF officials, but the intention is to open the scheme on Friday morning. Media reports have suggested that the reduction in meat supplies is having an impact on wholesale prices and that a number of jobs in the meat processing industry are at risk.

Details of an initial compensation package were also announced on Tuesday. Money is to be drawn forward from the UK's Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme (see UK1005 for full details of the scheme). The scheme provides support to farmers wishing to leave the industry, and effectively widens the number of farmers who can decide to cease production in light of FMD and receive compensation. Minister Brown also announced that HMG would draw upon the compulsory and non-compulsory elements of agrimonetary compensation for the beef, sheep and dairy regime. The total sum of money involved in the non-compulsory element is BPS152 (USD220) million, and the compulsory element amounts to BPS16 (USD23) million. This compensation will go to beef, dairy and sheep farmers. Minister Brown said on Tuesday there would be no compensation for hauliers, abattoirs and food processing firms hit by the outbreak, although leaders of the livestock haulage industry are reportedly due to meet the government on Wednesday morning to discuss compensation for their loss of business.

In addition to the livestock movement ban, a number of actions are being taken to prevent further transmission of the disease. HMG has provided local authorities with powers to close footpaths as people are encouraged to stay away from the countryside. Sporting events are also disrupted: horse racing in the UK has been suspended from today until March 7th at the earliest and an international rugby match between Ireland and Wales has been postponed.

The slaughter and incineration of livestock on some infected farms is being delayed by snow and high winds. With MAFF reporting 5 (five) mile exclusion zones set up around a further 19 (nineteen) farms and investigations under way on many more, it is expected that more cases will be confirmed today.