



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

**Date:** 8/7/2007

**GAIN Report Number:** GM7035

## Germany

### Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

### Germany's Reaction to FMD in the U.K.

**2007**

**Approved by:**

Bobby Richey Jr., Agricultural Counselor  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Sabine M. Lieberz, Agricultural Specialist

---

**Report Highlights:**

Germany received 39 sheep, one bull, and two zoo animals from the U.K. in the six weeks prior to the FMD outbreak in the U.K. on August 3, 2007. All of the imported animals appear healthy but are under official observation and are being tested for the FMD virus. German authorities are confident that FMD has not made its way to Germany. The German market will likely not suffer from the U.K.'s export ban for susceptible animals and animal products because the U.K. market share of the respective products in Germany is marginal to low.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Berlin [GM1]  
[GM]

In the six weeks prior to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the U.K. on August 3, 2007, Germany received only four shipments of animals from the U.K. They consisted of one bull, which was shipped to a breeding farm in the state of SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, and 39 sheep, which went to a total of seven farms: three farms in HESSE and one farm each in LOWER-SAXONY, RHINELAND-PALATINATE, NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, and BAVARIA. In addition, two zoo animals, a vicuna (*Vicugna vicugna*) and a capybara or "water pig" (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) were imported by the Dresden zoological garden.

All of the farms from which the imported animals originated in the U.K. are located more than 100 km away from the current outbreak. Therefore, the German Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection (BMELV) is confident that none of the imported animals carried the virus. Nonetheless, as a precaution, all recipient farms in Germany were put under quarantine immediately and animals are being tested for the FMD virus by the German Federal Research Station for Animal Health (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, FLI). The results of the first farms tested came out virus negative. The remainder of results are expected shortly.

The German task force on animal diseases, which combines federal and state level experts, met on Monday, August 6, 2007, and came to the conclusion that all necessary measure have been taken in a timely and exhaustive fashion.

On Friday, August 3, 2007, the U.K. prohibited all exports of susceptible animals and animal products. However, this export ban will not have a major impact on the German market. German imports of animals, milk, and butter from the U.K. are negligible. Imports of cheese, beef, pork, and whole milk powder contribute only 1 to 4 percent to total German imports of the respective products. Only for non-fat dry milk (NFDN) imports the U.K. has a noticeable market share (7 percent).

On its website, BMELV points out that FMD is dangerous for animals but not for humans. BMELV stresses that neither traveling to the U.K. nor consuming meat or dairy products pose a risk to humans, even if FMD should spread to Germany or neighboring countries.