

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: UK Imposes Foot and Mouth Restrictions on Germany

Country: United Kingdom

Post: London

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Following confirmation of Foot and Mouth Disease in Germany, the United Kingdom (UK) government has taken immediate unilateral action to mitigate against the risk of it spreading to Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland). The UK has suspended import of commodities from Germany including live ungulates and their germplasm, fresh meat from ungulates, meat products from ungulates, milk and animal by-products unless treated to mitigate FMD risk. Further safeguard measures restricting the commercial import to the UK of animal by-products, hay, and straw from Germany, unless treated to effectively mitigate the risk of FMD, are expected to be published shortly.

Following confirmation on January 10, 2025, by the German Chief Veterinary Officer of a detection of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in a herd of farmed water buffalo, Germany has lost its FMD free status. Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) has subsequently [suspended the import](#) of the following commodities from Germany:

- live (including non-domestic) ungulates (ruminants – primarily cattle and sheep - and porcine animals, including wild game) and their germplasm
- fresh meat from ungulates
- meat products from ungulates that have not been subject to specific treatment (including wild game)
- milk, colostrum and their products, unless subjected to specific treatment
- animal by-products, unless treated to effectively mitigate the risk of FMD

Further safeguard measures restricting the commercial import to the United Kingdom (UK) of animal by-products, hay, and straw from Germany, unless treated to effectively mitigate the risk of FMD, are expected to be published shortly.

The UK is an important destination for German animal products and some disruption is already being reported with product being held at ports. Businesses are being urged not to put products imported in good faith before the confirmation of disease into the UK supply chain. However, UK import demand is expected to be met from other origins including Ireland, the UK's largest European Union animal and animal product trading partner.

Due to Brexit, His Majesty's Government (HMG) has been able to take immediate unilateral action to mitigate against the risk of the FMD outbreak in Germany from spreading to Great Britain (GB). The 2001 FMD outbreak in the UK still holds the record for the largest in a developed country, and HMG is especially alert to the risks associated with imports from FMD-affected countries.

In addition to the direct impact of this highly contagious viral disease on cattle, sheep, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals, the spread of FMD causes very significant economic losses. These include the costs of containment and disinfection; production losses in the affected animals; loss of access to foreign markets for animals, meat and milk; and costs associated with movement restrictions in affected areas, including a loss of tourism income. Estimates from 2001 put the public sector costs at over £3 (\$3.66) billion, and those for the private sector at more than £5 (\$6.1) billion. The epidemic also led to the slaughter of 6.5 million animals.

Attachments:

No Attachments.