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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

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Dear Livestock Producers:

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease primarily affecting cloven-hooved livestock and wildlife. Although adult animals generally recover, many animals that have never been exposed get very sick, and significant pain and distress occur in some species. Long term impacts may include decreased milk yield, permanent hoof damage and chronic mastitis. Outbreaks can severely disrupt livestock production, result in embargoes by trade partners, and require a large amount of money to control. Direct and indirect economic losses to areas impacted by the disease can equal several billion U.S. dollars.

With the current outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) affecting North and South Korea, and recent outbreaks in Mongolia, Japan, and other countries, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) recommends reviewing your livestock facility's bio-security procedures.

Although the distance between Michigan, the Koreas and other areas with FMD virus activity does not seem to place our state at risk, international travel increases the risk of disease entering the state. U.S. Customs and Border Protection have increased security screening to reduce the risk of disease entry through airports. Remember, most people in the state are only a few hours away from an airport where a direct international flight may be ending. Additional information on foreign animal diseases can be found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

Contact your veterinarian if any blisters/vesicular lesions are seen in livestock and all vesicular lesions seen in livestock should be reported to the MDARD's Animal Industry Division at (517) 373-1077 (after hours and weekends, call 517-373-0440) or to the Michigan office of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services at (517) 324- 5290 (after hours and weekends if FMD suspected 1-800-408-9142).

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We recommend the following resources to help measure your risk and give you ideas on how to strengthen bio-security in your facility:

- Michigan State University Extension's "Be Aware, Be Prepared" Group
 - Contact Dean Ross at (517) 546-3950
 - Farm gate bio-security information and visitor policy examples are available at www.cvm.msu.edu/biosecurity.
- Center for Food Safety and Public Health
 - Iowa State University website project has great material for all food animal production facilities and helps create a free account to tailor bio-security for your facility. Website at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/>.
 - Producer information: http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Infection_Control/general-prevention-for-producers.php.
 - Tools to help increase bio-security are located at <https://apps.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM/Login.aspx>
- United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Animal Disease PReP site
 - Another resource that contains great reference material for all animal industries. Go to <https://fadprep.lmi.org> to create your account.

Respectfully,



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