

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE

PREPAREDNESS FOR DAIRY VETERINARIANS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Australian dairy cattle veterinarians and service providers are urged to familiarise themselves with the information on Dairy Australia's **Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness page**.

Dairy Australia is working closely with the Federal and State Governments to ensure we are aligned with key messages and are providing the necessary tools and resources dairy farmers need to protect their farms.

Visitors to dairy farms

Farm visits are necessary often necessary to maintain dairy business operations. However, with the heightened risk of Foot-and-mouth Disease (FMD), it's more important than ever we implement good biosecurity practices before going on farm.

It is strongly recommended that all visitors to dairy farms take the following precautions to help prevent FMD from reaching our dairy farming communities.

- 1 If going on farm, ensure you adhere to the farm's biosecurity requirements. Enquire with the farmer whether they have a farm biosecurity plan prior to arrival.
- 2 Complete the farm's visitor/staff risk assessment (or if this does not exist, complete the **Dairy Australia visitor/staff risk assessment**) and present this on arrival.
- 3 Visitors should always wear cleaned and sanitised* rubber boots, free of mud, animal manure and any other animal fluids (e.g. milk) and wear disposable booties if possible. Clothes must be clean and if they become soiled must be changed between farms. Hands must be washed and sanitised.



- 4 Vehicles or equipment should be clean before entering onto any farm. Park in designated parking areas and do not take vehicles where they may come into contact with animal manure or any other animal fluids (e.g. paddocks, dairy tracks).
- 5 Any visitors who have entered Australia from countries that are not deemed to be free of FMD (including Indonesia and Bali) must not go onto a farm for at least 7 days. To see an up-to-date list of FMD free countries visit (**FMD-Free Country List - DAFF (agriculture.gov.au)**).
- 6 There must be no non-essential contact with animals. Where animal, manure, or animal fluids contact is likely to occur or is required (e.g., for veterinarians or AI technicians), clean laundered PPE (e.g., cotton overalls) and disposable gloves must be worn.

*Information on footbaths can be found **here**.

If during a farm visit you see anything unusual call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.



Emergency Animal Disease Field Guide for Veterinarians

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture field guide on emergency animal diseases provides information on important emergency animal diseases that do not exist in Australia or that are rare. It will help veterinarians in the field include appropriate Emergency Animal Diseases in their differential diagnoses and take appropriate action if presented with signs of an unusual disease.

Download here.

National Guidance for engagement of private veterinarians during an EAD response

This national guidance document provides guidance and essential information for both private veterinarians and government agencies to assist with the engagement of veterinarians during EAD responses.

agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/health/engagement-of-private-veterinarians/national-guidance-document

Emergency Animal Disease training for dairy veterinarians and service providers

It is recommended that all dairy veterinarians and service providers undertake the following Animal Health Australia online training courses.

- EAD foundation course
- FMD awareness – protecting your livelihood and community

Additionally, veterinarians may consider undertaking the following additional training programs:

- Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians
- FMD training for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals

These courses can be accessed on the **Animal Health Australia website**.

Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD) training

Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD) training is for nominated veterinary and technical experts from industry and government members who would advise their National Management Group (NMG) representative about disease control in an EAD response.

CCEAD training is delivered each year during Animal Health Australia's Engagement Week in March and September, either in a virtual or face-to-face workshop format. Additional awareness-based training may be delivered throughout the year based on member requests and availability.

More information on CCEAD training can be found **here**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit dairyaustralia.com.au/eadpreparedness