

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE



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Foot and Mouth Disease

The presence of foot and mouth disease in both Mexico and Canada has caused considerable anxiety among the stockmen in the United States.

What is Foot and Mouth Disease

Foot and mouth disease is an infectious disease of cloven-footed animals. It is caused by a filterable virus of which there are six different strains.

How is it spread ?

The disease can be spread from sick animals to well ones. The meat of an infected animal can cause the disease if fed to well ones (swine). The virus may contaminate vehicles, feed, water, manure, clothing, etc. It can be carried long distances since the virus is very resistant when cold and also remains alive for a long time when dried. Migrating birds spread foot and mouth disease.

What it looks like

Symptoms of foot and mouth disease include lameness and drooling. Blisters on the tongue, lips, nose, teats or at the top of the hoof are lesions of foot and mouth disease. Death losses are usually low but may be high in young or poorly fed animals.

Two other diseases are similar to foot and mouth disease. They are vesicular stomatitis and vesicular exanthema. The last is a disease only of swine.

What to do in cases of Foot and Mouth Disease

1. Confine all animals to the owner's farm.
2. The owner and his family should remain on the premises.
3. No visitors should be allowed on the farm.
4. Dogs and cats should be confined and wild meat-eating animals shot and the carcasses burned.
5. Notify the local veterinarian. Describe the symptoms so he can be prepared when he visits the farm.
6. Do not slaughter or remove from the farm any animal showing signs of one of the three vesicular diseases.
7. If you cannot obtain a veterinarian locally notify either:

Dr. T. O. Brandenburg- Capitol
Building - Bismarck, N. D.

Dr. A. F. Ranney - Federal
Building - Bismarck, N. D.

Do not attempt home treatment of any disease with "blisters" on the nose, tongue, lips, teats or at the top of the hoof without a competent diagnosis.