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AGRI-BIP NEWSLETTER

FOOT AND MOUTH UPDATE

We all hoped that once per lifetime was enough after 2001's FMD outbreak, but here we are just 6 years on in a similar position. The third farm was implicated in the outbreak last evening, with a farmer just outside the original protection zone calling in Defra vets as a result of some calves looking ill on the farm. However at the time of writing things look optimistic with the farmer indicating that the vets thought that it unlikely to be FMD, but are awaiting results of laboratory tests to prove that it is not. Let us hope that the spread of disease is contained within the current area.

Fingers are being pointed at Pirbright as the source, which opens up the possibility of claims for damages in the future. For now though we all have a part to play in ensuring the disease is eradicated quickly and efficiently.

With any luck this outbreak is contained and things will free up quite quickly to allow normal service to be resumed especially the export of red meat, we do not need depressed prices given the extra costs the wet summer and increased concentrate prices have already placed on livestock farmers.

Animal Movements

Later in this newsletter we are publishing the general licence for slaughter which allows movement to abattoirs of slaughter stock. The main rules include;

- The vehicle must be clean, no contamination with slurry, dung, mud or used litter
- When leaving or entering the farm the vehicles wheels and wheel arches must be cleansed and disinfected. When loaded at the farm this cleansing must take place where no further contamination can take place.
- After unloading at the abattoir the vehicle must be again cleansed and disinfected on site.
- No transfers of livestock between vehicles
- The driver must have protective clothing and footwear that can be cleansed or disposable clothing. The protective clothing and footwear must be cleansed and disinfected before leaving each premises (farm and abattoir). If disposable must only be used once.

The only other movements allowed are:

- **Walking** across roads for vet treatments – not transporting in vehicles.
- **Walking** in dairy cows for milking – not including moving animals about to calve.

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In both the above situation the animals must only move from one part of the farm premises to another part of the same premises, not between differing premises / holdings. Any animal excreta dropped on the highway must be removed immediately.

Both of the above are allowed under a general licence. You do not need to have a copy of the licence but you do need to comply with the conditions of the licence (as above) and to comply with full bio security conditions. Should you wish to see a copy they can be obtained from the animal health office, trading standards or downloaded from the internet- www.defra.gov.uk/footandmouth/pdf/milkinglicence-070805.pdf

All other movements for cattle, sheep and goats are currently banned

Licences have also now been issued to allow the collection of fallen stock to resume. The carcasses must be moved to the edge of the farm premises, and full disinfection must take place at the collection point. Collections must be made by collectors registered with National Fallen Stock Scheme. If you are not a member of the National Fallen Stock Scheme contact 0845 0548888 for details of the collectors or on the internet look at www.nfsc.co.uk.

If you need help the following are helpline numbers of various organisations who can help and don't forget you can always call Agri-BIP for a chat and we will do our best to help. Our **Free Phone Number is 0800 592872.**

Contacts and Help lines

Animal Health Offices

Cornwall	01872 265500
Devon	01392 266373
Somerset	01823 337922
Dorset	01823 337922

Devon County Council Trading Standards – 0845 1551999

Defra Helpline - 08459 335577

Rural Stress South West 0845 6037906

Farm Crisis Network 07002 326326

RABI 01865 727888

The General licence to slaughter

The General licence to slaughter can be found on the internet at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd/pdf/generalllicence-slaughter100807.pdf and is printed below.

EXD240(FMD)(E)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Welsh Assembly Government

Animal Health Act 1981

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (England) Order 2006

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Scotland) Order 2006

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Wales) Order 2006

General licence for the movement of susceptible animals to slaughter in a Restricted Zone

I being an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State / Welsh Assembly Government for the purposes of the Animal Health Act 1981, grant the following licence under the Order:

Licence

This licence permits the movement of susceptible animals from premises within the Restricted Zone to any approved slaughterhouse, subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule of Conditions attached.

The Order means the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (England) Order 2006 in England, the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Scotland) Order 2006 in Scotland and the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Wales) Order 2006 in Wales.

An approved slaughterhouse is a slaughterhouse:

(i) licensed under paragraph 22(2)(a) or 29(2)(a) of Schedule 5 or approved pursuant to paragraph 2 of Schedule 7 of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (England) Order 2006;

(ii) licensed under paragraph 22(2)(a) or 29(2)(a) of Schedule 4 or approved pursuant to paragraph 2 of Schedule 6 of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Wales) Order 2006; or

(iii) on the list of slaughterhouses approved from time to time by Scottish Ministers for the purpose of the general licence under Article 5(2), 38(1) and paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Scotland) Order 2006 for the movement of foot-and-mouth disease susceptible animals for slaughter in an approved slaughterhouse.

Rupert Hine

Appointed Inspector

Date: 10 August 2007

Schedule - General Licence Conditions

i) The move must be direct.

ii) Before the animals are loaded on to the vehicle, the person despatching the animals must be satisfied that the vehicle is clean, with no visible sign of contamination with mud, slurry, used litter or faecal matter.

iii) Scheduled stops are permitted only within the Restriction Zone under the following conditions (except if the vehicle is transporting pigs):-

(a) The scheduled stop must be at one of the following:-

(i) Motorway service station

(ii) Proper lay-by on a trunk / main road)

(iii) Lorry park or similar place;

(b) The vehicle must be parked on a hard standing;

(c) The vehicle must be parked at least 100 metres away from any livestock (including those on a livestock vehicle using the same facility);

(d) The vehicle must carry a cleansing and disinfection portable kit (i.e. a bucket, water, disinfectant and a brush) or if none carried, the place in which the vehicle is stopped must have cleansing and disinfection facilities;

(e) Any bedding, litter, dung, urine etc leaking from the vehicle must be cleaned up and the area disinfected before the vehicle leaves; any solid waste material must be bagged and put in a separate compartment on the vehicle to which animals do not have access and taken to the point of destination for disposal;

(f) No transfers of livestock between vehicles (or unloading of livestock except in an emergency) will be allowed at scheduled stopping places;

(g) A record of the place(s) where and time(s) when stopped must be kept by the driver and retained for 6 months.

iv) Before entering or leaving the premises of origin, the vehicle's wheels, wheel arches and mud flaps must be cleansed and disinfected. The cleansing and disinfection after loading must take place at a point beyond which no contamination with animal faeces, litter or any similar matter can take place.

v) After unloading at the premises of destination the parts of the vehicle used to transport anything which might be contaminated with mud, slurry, animal faeces, excretions or any other similar matter must be cleansed and disinfected on site.

vi) All persons to whom this licence applies shall:

a) Wear robust protective clothing and footwear that can be cleansed and disinfected or disposable clothing. The protective clothing must be cleansed and disinfected before leaving any premises from which an animal has been collected and stored outside the driver's cab. The disposable clothing must not be worn for more than one collection and must be disposed of in a way that no susceptible animal can have access to it;

b) Cleanse and disinfect their footwear on entering and leaving premises within the controlled zone; and

c) take all other reasonable precautions to avoid the transfer of contamination between premises.

vii) A person moving anything under authority of a general licence granted under the Order must carry with him at all times during the licensed movement, a consignment note which contains details of what is moved, including its quantity; the date of the movement; the name of the consignor; the address of the premises from which the movement started; the name of the consignee; and the address of the premises of destination. On demand made by an inspector, or other officer of the Secretary of State / Scottish Ministers / Welsh Assembly Government, the person moving anything under authority of a general licence must produce the consignment note and allow a copy or extract to be taken; and on such demand provide his name and address.

Notes

Cleansing and disinfection of vehicles must be in accordance with Article 45 of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (England) Order 2006 in England, Article 45 of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Scotland) Order 2006 in Scotland or Article 45 of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Wales) Order 2006 in Wales and Schedule 2 of the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) Order 2003 in England, the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 in Scotland or the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Wales) Order 2003 in Wales.

All movements are subject to the animals being properly identified and accompanied by the appropriate duly completed movement documentation. In the case of cattle this will be the passport and for other species the relevant completed AML form. The movements must be reported to BCMS in the case of cattle and to the local authority for other species.

Failure to observe the measures required in this licence is an offence under Section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981. The penalty on conviction of an offence under this section is a maximum of six months imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine.

Contact your local Animal Health office or Local Authority for further advice on bio security measures and any other legislation that may apply.

DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been taken to ensure the information contained in these notes is correct, however, West Devon Business Information Point will not be liable for any loss arising from the use of these notes or any omissions or errors contained within.