



Department of  
**AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES &  
FORESTRY -  
AUSTRALIA**



28 September 2001

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/28**

### **THE NETHERLANDS AND IRELAND: LIFTING OF TEMPORARY FMD RESTRICTIONS**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the lifting of the temporary foot and mouth disease (FMD) restrictions on product from the Netherlands and Ireland, effective immediately.

The Director of Quarantine has approved the lifting of the temporary FMD restrictions on product from the Netherlands and Ireland. This decision takes effect immediately.

On 14 March 2001, Australia temporarily suspended imports of animals susceptible to FMD and their products from the European Union (EU) and other countries where FMD is present. As part of the undertaking to review the temporary restriction, Biosecurity Australia sent a questionnaire to the embassies of each Member State and the EU delegation in Canberra. The questionnaire was based on the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code definitions for FMD free zones and included key epidemiological data identified as significant by Australian veterinarians who had participated in the United Kingdom (UK) eradication campaign.

The Netherlands has provided a detailed response that presented all the necessary information to confirm its FMD-free status. The Netherlands detected the first outbreak on 14 March 2001 and the last outbreak on 22 April 2001. Both goats and cattle were infected. The Netherlands has provided information on its control and eradication measures as well as tracing, surveillance, monitoring and prevention activities. The eradication measures included stamping out and pre-emptive culling and emergency vaccination. All vaccinated animals were culled and destroyed as soon as possible; the last animal was vaccinated on 24 April 2001 and the last vaccinated animal was slaughtered on 25 May 2001.

Under OIE rules, a country formerly free from FMD regains that free status three months after the slaughter of the last vaccinated animal where stamping out and serological surveillance and emergency vaccination are applied.

Genetic material and dairy products produced from milk collected between 12 February and 25 August 2001 from the Netherlands will not be eligible for importation.

Ireland has also provided a submission addressing the information sought by Animal Biosecurity. The only outbreak which occurred was reported on 20



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March 2001 and considered to have been caused by virus introduced between 25 February and 6 March 2001. Information was provided on control and eradication measures as well as tracing, surveillance, monitoring and prevention activities. The control measures included slaughter of all susceptible species on the premises and within 3 kilometres of the premises.

Under OIE rules, a country formerly free from FMD without vaccination regains that free status three months after the last reported outbreak if no vaccination occurred.

Genetic material and dairy products produced from milk collected between 1 February and 22 June 2001 from Ireland will not be eligible for importation.

I would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.

### Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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