



INFORMATION AND PREVENTION ESSENTIAL IN STOPPING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

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Brussels, 8 June 2009 - Early detection of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and immediate and effective intervention by the veterinary authorities and the agricultural industry is essential in controlling or eradicating the disease, according to a new publication released by IDF*.

This practically oriented position paper outlines the effects that an epidemic of FMD can have on the dairy industry in any country. This report offers practical guidance and is an essential read for the dairy industry, as the effects of FMD can be significant for any country involved in the outbreak including neighbouring countries. The effect on the export trade is very likely to be substantial for all countries involved and thus is felt across a wide range of commercial businesses.

Reporting and updating progress is fundamental for the successful maintenance and development of strategies for the control of FMD globally. "IDF would like to raise international awareness, understanding and appreciation of the risk posed by FMD to the health of milking animals while we also wish to promote eradication and control strategies that have proven to be effective in different countries" said Christian Robert, IDF Director General.

"In this context, we found that it is important to have clarity about the role of all parts of the dairy industry in the event of an upsurge and to fully understand what the impact of the control measures imposed by the veterinary authorities would be on business. It is thus very important that the dairy industry should, at national, local and farm level, have contingency plans in place for managing a contagion of FMD", concluded the paper.

* Bulletin of the IDF n° 437/2009 **Effects on foot-and-mouth disease on the dairy industry**. It can be ordered via the IDF website at <http://www.fil-idf.org>

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Note to editors:

- The International Dairy Federation is the pre-eminent source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders in the dairy chain.
- Growing IDF membership accounts for about **86%** of the world's total milk production.