Brussels, 24 September 2007 - Strategies and current scientific thinking on how to monitor and optimize the control of Foot and mouth disease (FMD) are unveiled in this new issue of the IDF Bulletin.

Foot-and-Mouth disease is one of the most contagious viral diseases known, in that it can spread very quickly and easily amongst susceptible livestock, and one of the most dreaded ones, as it can affect all parts of the dairy sector.

The golden rule is “never put your herd at risk”, as stated by Dr Gideon Brückner, from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). “Continue to apply strict bio-security measures on your premises, even if the risk of contamination appears to be minor. Due to the increased international traffic, foot and mouth disease can spread quicker than its average time of incubation - three days. Always insure that breeding stocks are bought from sources that have been controlled and certified, and do not allow the introduction of the disease through human movement or potential infection sources of unknown origin. Bio-security measures should be applied to all animal species. Good record keeping, ensuring quick forward- and back-tracing in case of an outbreak, is obviously essential.”

Cooperation between all stakeholders is core, also over national borders. It is vital that the veterinary authorities and the whole of the dairy industry in every country are fully aware of their collective responsibilities and their contingency plans to deal with an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. "The interactions between all parts of the dairy industry and the veterinary authorities must be clearly understood so that their respective contingency plans can swing smoothly and effectively into action. These contingency plans must work together rather than against each other in the fight to bring the outbreak under control." said Christian Robert, IDF Director General.

"Foot and mouth disease and the dairy industry: problems and prevention" is the new Bulletin of IDF n° 421/2007. It can be ordered in electronic form via the IDF website at http://www.fil-idf.org

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Note to editors:

"Founded in 1903, The International Dairy Federation represents the dairy sector worldwide by providing the best global source of scientific expertise and knowledge in support of the development and promotion of quality milk and dairy products to deliver consumers with nutrition, health and well-being."