



## 13/14 Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) Preparedness Programme

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly-contagious viral disease that if present in New Zealand, could affect most of our production animals including cattle, sheep, pigs, deer and goats.

**New Zealand is free from FMD** and has never had an outbreak. MPI has robust border measures in place to keep FMD out of New Zealand.

If, however, an outbreak occurred here, it would have significant consequences – both economically and socially. A suspension in trade in our animal products would occur and continue until New Zealand was able to restore disease freedom. It would also cause major disruption to primary industry support businesses (e.g. animal product processing, transport, rural contracting) and would significantly impact on rural communities.

To date there has been considerable investment in preparation for significant animal disease outbreaks, but it is recognised that there are gaps in the current state of readiness.

The 13/14 FMD Preparedness Programme was started in October 2013 and sets out to develop a comprehensive response capability, covering response structure and disease management. It is due to be largely completed by the end of 2014. The aim is to minimise the impacts of an FMD incursion on the economy, people and communities of New Zealand.

Primary sector industry partners have been actively involved in both the creation and implementation of the programme.

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### 13/14 FMD Preparedness Programme objectives

The programme's objectives are:

- To identify, prioritise and progress specific areas where targeted mitigations will have the greatest ability to reduce the impact of FMD.
- Policy, plans and manuals that support FMD response are readily available and understood by those that need to implement and/or follow them.
- Confidence that decisions made can be implemented
- Resources are 'mission ready' and can be used in a response, if required.
- To ensure the high priority gaps in FMD preparedness identified in previous reviews are addressed or there is a plan in place to address them.

## **13/14 FMD Preparedness Programme deliverables**

A joint MPI-Industry working group analysed gaps in current levels of preparedness and prioritized actions required. As a result 13 key projects are underway through to December 2014. These are summarised below:

### **Modular FMD response plan**

To produce a “one stop shop” FMD response plan that will be used as the reference point for all FMD preparedness for New Zealand Incorporated. The focus of the plan will be largely the activities that occur in the first week of an FMD response. It will include policies and plans that integrate industry, central and regional government roles and animal welfare considerations.

### **Economic impact assessment**

To explore the potential economic impacts (at a macroeconomic and sectoral level) of FMD under several scenarios to better understand the economic cost of an outbreak and inform planning, preparedness and mitigation.

### **Whole of Government approach and ‘NZ Incorporated’ approach to FMD**

To consider a pre-agreed New Zealand Incorporated response with industry, other government agencies, regional government and other stakeholders. This will include investigating what part other agencies are likely to play, looking at what it is that we want to achieve in a response, how it will be undertaken and what we’ll need from stakeholders in order to achieve the outcomes.

### **Resource map for an FMD response and inventory of personnel**

To develop a detailed map of roles and responsibilities required to manage an FMD response and a clear understanding of the numbers required for the severe scenarios. This includes preparing an inventory of roles/personnel/resources required (and keeping this current), a list of specific critical role-holders, an understanding of gaps in resource and a plan to address this.

### **Pre-agreed notification process**

To have a pre-agreed notification process in place that outlines how and when industry stakeholders will be notified of a FMD investigation by MPI. This will include trigger points at which industries are notified, how sensitive information will be managed and distributed by all parties and a de-escalation process in the event of a negative finding.

### **Urgent movement controls and other urgent measures**

To prepare a pre-agreed (with industry and stakeholders) operational plan that enables urgent movement controls and disease management controlled areas to be implemented effectively and efficiently. Plus review any other urgent measures (other than urgent movement controls and 3D) that require pre-planning and agreement between MPI, industry and other stakeholders.

### **Carcass disposal**

To develop technical guidelines for disposal operations (including roles, actions and responsibilities), an operational plan (including a decision framework to use during a response), and a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database to provide disposal decision support.

## **Disinfection**

To develop a disinfections operational and procedures manual for infected properties and non-infected properties (to reduce spread).

## **Destruction**

To develop an operational and procedures manual based on agreed destruction procedures for livestock on properties that require destruction that is compliant with animal welfare requirements.

## **Vaccination**

To develop an operational plan for deployment of FMD Vaccination under the current FMD response; to review and amend, if necessary, the current vaccination policy in light of international best practice.

## **Biosecurity plans for FMD**

To ensure the necessary information and guidelines that allow farms, saleyards, stock transport firms, domestic processors of meat or dairy products, zoos and lifestyle blocks to put biosecurity plans in place are available. Plus establishing a plan for the amendment of existing RORPs notice and guidelines to ensure FMD requirements are incorporated into Risk Organism Response Plans (RORPs) for all premises where stock are mixed or transient (slaughter plants, sale yards, show grounds).

## **Communications**

To develop a communications plan (that has been pre-agreed with industry) for use in an FMD outbreak supported by a suite of communications collateral that is ready to roll out in the event of a progressing FMD investigation and/or outbreak.

## **Gap analysis**

To develop a list of outstanding priority work projects and prepare a plan of how to address these (and current projects ongoing) after December 2014.

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## **Find out more about these projects**

If you'd like to know more about any of these projects, please email [FMD\\_Preparedness\\_Programme@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:FMD_Preparedness_Programme@mpi.govt.nz).

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## **Keep up to date on what's happening in the 13/14 FMD Preparedness Programme**

To keep up to date on how the 13/14 FMD Preparedness Programme is progressing, [subscribe](#) to our bi-monthly e-newsletter, *Viral News: Spreading the word, not the disease*.

Previous issues are also available: [Issue 1 - August 2014](#)  
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