

# Milk Movement from Control Areas in an FMD Outbreak

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## Milk Movement at the Beginning of an FMD Outbreak

In an FMD outbreak, Responsible Regulatory Officials (local, state, tribal, and federal officials, as appropriate) have the authority and responsibility to establish Control Areas around FMD infected premises and to manage animal and animal product (e.g., milk) movement within, into, and out of the Control Area. They must balance the risks of allowing movement of raw milk against the risk of not allowing movement and thus the necessity for on farm disposal of raw milk. They may require that dairy premises meet certain requirements, such as being pre-certified by state officials or designated as a Monitored Premises before being permitted to move raw milk to processing, or they may allow dairy premises to continue movement of raw milk to processing with requirements for increased premises biosecurity and truck and driver biosecurity. Processing of milk from a Control Area must always include pasteurization. Decisions on raw milk movement will depend on factors unique to each outbreak and Control Area. There may be additional restrictions if milk is to be moved outside of the Control Area or into another state for processing. The following recommendation provides the flexibility for Responsible Regulatory Officials to manage milk movement according to their collective judgement and the circumstances surrounding the outbreak.

Dairy premises in any FMD Control Area that are **designated as Infected, Suspect, or Contact Premises** will not be allowed to move milk until a permit is issued by Responsible Regulatory Officials.

Dairy premises in any FMD Control Area that are **NOT designated as Infected, Suspect, or Contact Premises** will be informed by Responsible Regulatory Officials that either:

1. They may continue moving milk to processing (this may require that the dairy already has a National Premises Identification Number (PIN) and/or some form of pre-certification by their state).
2. They must stop movement of milk, become a Monitored Premises (which requires having a valid PIN, and being inspected to ensure adequate biosecurity and surveillance) and obtain a permit to move milk to processing.

The dairy premises in an FMD Control Area must immediately begin working to increase biosecurity as recommended in the Secure Milk Supply Plan in order to best protect their site from becoming infected and to become designated as a Monitored Premises. Premises must be a Monitored Premises in order to request a permit for the movement of any live animals.

### **Rationale for allowing continued movement of milk from dairies in Control Areas under certain circumstances:**

FMD virus is not a food safety or public health concern. Each Control Area is at least 120 square miles around an infected premises and may be much larger. This could include many dairy premises and overwhelm the ability of Responsible Regulatory Officials to certify dairy premises as having valid premises identification numbers, adequate biosecurity, and surveillance to be designated as Monitored Premises resulting in prolonged dumping of milk.

- Dumping milk presents hazards for FMD virus spread and environmental concerns.
- In a large outbreak, dumping excessive amounts of milk could lead to shortages of milk and milk products for consumers.

- The USDA does not have the resources to pay for the dumped milk.
- Dumping of milk at the start of the outbreak sends the erroneous message that the milk is not safe and wholesome for human consumption. This message will be hard to change if the outbreak expands and the milk is later allowed to move for processing and to market.
- Responsible Regulatory Officials will be focusing on critical response activities that have a higher priority than designating dairy premises as Monitored Premises for milk movement, such as:
  - Trace back/trace forward of all movements from Infected Premises (cattle, swine, sheep, goat).
  - Rapid investigation of Suspect and Contact Premises.
  - Quarantine, stop movement, and biocontainment on Infected Premises.
  - Any necessary depopulation, disposal, and virus elimination activities as dictated by the response strategy.
  - Surveillance in and around the Control Area(s).
  - Permitting other critical/essential movements such as feed, equipment, etc.

### ***Acknowledgments***

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### ***Comments***

Please send comments or suggested edits for improvement to: [smsinfo@iastate.edu](mailto:smsinfo@iastate.edu)

### ***Additional Resources***

The Secure Milk Supply website has additional resources available at: [www.securemilksupply.org](http://www.securemilksupply.org)