

What to Expect in a National Movement Standstill

Following the first finding of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the U.S.



WHY WOULD THIS HAPPEN?

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is the most contagious disease of two-toed (cloven-hooved) animals. USDA could issue a National Movement Standstill if FMD infection is found in domestic or feral animals. Stopping animal movement is one way to slow or stop the spread of this contagious disease.

Infected animals develop blisters on their feet, teats, and in their mouth. They do not want to walk, eat, and produce less milk. Young animals may die from FMD. Stopping movement will limit the number of animals that become sick or die.

WHEN WOULD IT START AND HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

A set start and stop time for the national standstill would be announced (e.g., 5:00 pm EST). Officials may issue a 12-hour grace period before the standstill “starts”. This allows livestock and germplasm (semen, embryos, oocytes) already on the road to arrive.

The standstill could last 24, 48, or 72-hours or longer in some areas. This time is needed to find other infected or exposed livestock. This involves testing animals and reviewing movement records of animals, people, or equipment that may have contacted infected animals.

WHERE WOULD THE STANDSTILL OCCUR?

The standstill would be nationwide at first. An infected animal in California for example, will subject cattle moving in Colorado, Tennessee, and Florida to a standstill. Livestock haulers already on the road will need to talk with dispatch or the animals’ owner. They will decide if it is safer to continue on or return to the origin. Officials may waive or extend current transportation hour limits. This will be communicated by USDA, State Officials, and livestock organizations like the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA).

WOULD RAW MILK MOVEMENT TO COMMERCE STOP?

A USDA notice of a national movement standstill does NOT affect the movement of raw milk to commerce. States may require additional steps for premises needing to move milk. Dairy farms should put their enhanced biosecurity plans in place to reduce the risk of FMD introduction. The Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan at www.securemilk.org has details about raw milk movements.

WHO WOULD IT AFFECT?

Live cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, elk, deer, and their germplasm (semen, embryos, oocytes) are subject to the Movement Standstill. They could all get infected with FMD if exposed.

A USDA standstill notice would NOT include any products produced from a USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)-inspected facility (meat for human consumption, non-edibles for rendering, pelts/skins/hides, etc.). It would NOT include milk moving to processing. To learn more about FMD, visit www.securemilk.org for videos and facts.



WHAT WOULD OR WOULD NOT HAPPEN DURING THIS TIME?

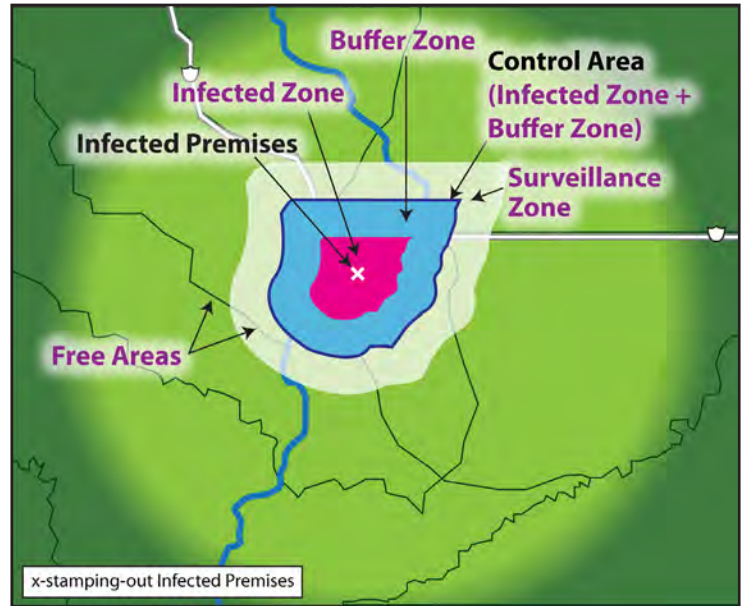
All livestock movements that are in progress when a standstill is announced should continue to their destination or return to their origin. Livestock haulers or transporters should contact dispatch or the owner and follow their guidance.

Livestock must be cared for. They should not be abandoned in trailers, at calf ranches/growers, at livestock markets, buying stations, or other areas where long-term feeding, watering, and caretaking are not available. Animals at harvest facilities should be processed if they pass FSIS ante- and post-mortem inspection. No new movements of animals should start until the standstill is lifted.

Officials will set up a Control Area around the infected premises during the standstill. All livestock that could get FMD in this area will be put under quarantine. No animals will be allowed to move even after the standstill lifts unless they have an outbreak movement permit. Each State will set the permit criteria.

Producers will need to provide information to the State to show their animals are at low risk of spreading FMD. Only animals that have no evidence of FMD infection will be allowed to move. Livestock haulers and transporters will need a copy of the permit when moving cattle.

Find cattle permit guidance in the Secure Milk Supply Plan at www.securemilk.org.



Source: USDA APHIS FMD Response Plan

WHAT CAN PRODUCERS, HAULERS AND PROCESSORS DO TO PREPARE?

Visit www.securemilk.org for guidance. Producers and processors can start by getting a Premises Identification Number (PIN) for their farms and plants. Producers should keep movement records and write an enhanced biosecurity plan.

Producers and livestock haulers can make a “what if” or contingency plan for a movement standstill. Processors and milk haulers should review the [Biosecurity Performance Standards for Raw Milk Collection and Transport](#) to know what will be expected of them in an outbreak. Planning before the chaos of an outbreak can help protect cattle and provide business continuity options.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Secure Milk Supply website has additional resources available at: www.securemilk.org.