

# Dairy Producer Contingency Planning: Movement Restrictions



## Table of Contents

COMMUNICATION PLANS .....	1
FINANCIAL PLANNING.....	2
RAW MILK MOVEMENTS TO COMMERCE AND ANIMAL FEED .....	2
CATTLE, SEMEN, AND EMBRYO MOVEMENTS.....	2
PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS .....	3
FEED AND COMMODITY MOVEMENTS .....	3
CARCASS MOVEMENTS.....	4
MANURE MOVEMENTS.....	4
GLOSSARY .....	4

## Introduction

The Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan provides a continuity of business (COB) framework for dairy premises with cattle **affected** by movement controls **but not infected** with foot and mouth disease (FMD) or a similar contagious disease. It describes dairy industry preparation for, and Regulatory Officials response to, this type of disease outbreak.

One strategy to control and contain the spread of contagious animal diseases is through movement restrictions. USDA recommends a 72-hour national movement standstill of susceptible livestock species and germplasm (semen, embryos) once FMD is diagnosed. Once the national movement standstill lifts, movement of these items on farms in the Control Area(s) will be by permit only based on the risk of disease spread. All interstate movements must meet existing movement/state entry requirements in addition to outbreak-specific conditions. Each State Animal Health Official (SAHO) has the authority to determine movement permit criteria within their state. The [SMS Plan](#), [Secure Beef Supply Plan](#), and the [Bovine Germplasm Movement Plan \(BGMP\)](#) provide recommended criteria. Regulatory Officials (local, state, tribal and federal officials) must balance the risks of allowing movement for business continuity with disease control goals to protect the state and nation’s herd.

**This document provides guidance for dairy producer to develop contingency plans for movement restrictions – for at least 72-hours – that supports animal well-being and business continuity.**

## Communication Plans

Movement restrictions will cause changes in routines and protocols. It will not be “business as normal.” A communication plan may lessen potential confusion or misunderstandings. Consider including:

- A list of internal and external people who are essential to business continuity.
  - Send them the [Employee and Visitor Arrival Agreement](#) to review/sign prior to arrival in an outbreak.
  - Inform suppliers and delivery drivers about changing delivery dates or drop-off locations.
- Preferred methods of communication that will be used (phone call, email, text, communication application, fax, etc.).
- Contact information for Regulatory Officials to learn about movement permit requirements.
- Where to find the dairy site-specific written enhanced biosecurity plan with labeled premises map so the Line of Separation (LOS) can be clearly marked with biosecurity [signs](#) to avoid unwanted entry.

## Financial Planning

An FMD outbreak in the U.S. will almost certainly result in lost export markets. Cash flow during periods of domestic movement restrictions may be affected. Financial risk management planning will be critical to business continuity. Some affected dairy farmers received compensation for loss of milk production due to the HPAI H5N1 outbreak in dairy cattle in 2024-2026. It is uncertain if similar support would exist for future disease outbreaks. Contingency plans should explore:

- Flexibility in contract arrangements for feed, fuel, dairy beef, replacement animals, and off-site animal rearing.
- Livestock risk protection insurance or business interruption coverage.
- Resources to support capital investment in equipment and personnel time for enhanced biosecurity.

## Raw Milk Movements to Commerce and Animal Feed

FMD is not a threat to food safety or human health; it is an animal disease. The [USDA FMD Response Plan, 2020](#), states,

“A national/regional movement standstill notice does not affect movement of milk. Premises may continue moving milk to commerce. All premises moving milk must implement, monitor, and enforce their premises biosecurity plans to reduce the risk of FMD introduction. States may choose to implement additional or alternative guidance for premises needing to move milk.”

Contact your [State Animal Health Official](#) to discuss what might be required in an outbreak to move raw milk to commerce – a permit and/or movement records (manifests) from producers, cooperatives, processors for traceability purposes.

Cows can shed FMD in their milk for two to four days before showing clinical signs, exposing other susceptible animals. Raw milk poses a risk when fed to animals. There is a risk that FMD virus will enter commerce before detection at the farm level. Animals could be exposed when raw milk rejected for human consumption and is diverted to animal feed. Single high-temperature short-time (HTST) pasteurization (161°F for 15 seconds) does not completely inactivate FMD virus in raw milk. Contingency plans should address:

- Options to feed calves if normally rely on off-farm sources for raw milk or colostrum
  - Preparing to meet movement permit criteria when movements restart (SMS Plan Appendix A).
  - Heat treatment (colostrum), pasteurizing (raw milk) to inactivate FMD virus while providing key nutrients
- Purchasing milk/colostrum replacers that meet WOA<sup>1</sup> standards to inactivate FMD virus
- Ration modifications if adult cattle are fed dairy products that do not meet WOA<sup>1</sup> standards to inactivate FMD virus
- Milk disposal options that meet local and state regulations in the event raw milk cannot be moved to commerce

## Cattle, Semen, and Embryo Movements

When a movement standstill is issued, it will be essential to identify all livestock shipments in transit and determine if any livestock originated from, are moving through, or are moving into a Control Area. Officials may issue a 12-hour grace period before the standstill “starts”. This allows livestock already on the road to arrive. Cattle marketing options will be impacted. Contingency plans should address:

- Communicating with the cattle shipper(s) and/or driver(s) to discuss options for animals in transit when the standstill is announced, to continue to the destination or return to the origin.
- Communicating with the packer to see if they will still accept cattle during the grace period and after movement restarts.
- Quarantine options for any animals returning to the origin to prevent exposure to the resident animals.

---

<sup>1</sup> World Organization for Animal Health, Terrestrial Animal Health Code [Chapter 8.8 Infection with FMD](#), Article 8.8.39 Procedures for inactivation of FMD virus in milk and milk products

- Preparing to meet movement permit criteria when movements restart (SMS Plan Appendix A, SBS Plan, and BGMP Appendix E).
- Alternative options to buy or sell cattle such as direct purchases from calf growers, heifer breeders, dairies, or purchasing from operations where no new cattle have been introduced for at least seven days
- Alternatives to traditional marketing such as direct sales to slaughter.
- Humane euthanasia procedures and employee training for cull cattle handling.
- Housing, feeding, caring for newborn calves on-site.
- Communicating with owners/managers of off-site facilities housing pre-calving heifers and dry cows to ensure they have trained personnel to oversee calvings, collect and feed colostrum, and provide calf care.
- Managing or humanely euthanizing organic dairy cows that cannot move to conventional dairy facilities for antibiotic treatment and hospital care.
- Options to breed cattle or harvest embryos at their current location.
- Keeping records by capturing the details listed in the animal movement log available on the SMS website.

## **Personnel Movements**

People's movements will not be restricted by regulatory officials in an outbreak. Limiting access to people essential to the operation is recommended to decrease traffic and risk of disease introduction. Contingency plans should address:

- Conducting some consultations via phone using digital images and videos.
- Training personnel for outbreak procedures and cross-training on other duties in the event some personnel are not available to come to work.
- Ensuring personnel are aware of any changes in roles related to movement restrictions.
- Keeping records by capturing the details listed in the [people entry log](#) available on the SMS website.

## **Feed and Commodity Movements**

Contact with Infected Premises through vehicles, equipment or people movement can put farms at risk of disease spread. Some SAHOs may require a movement permit for feed and commodities into, within, or out of a Control Area for traceability purposes. Contingency plans should address:

- Ability to decrease delivery frequency and/or modify the delivery path driven on the site.
  - The [Dairy Operations Inputs/Outputs Worksheet Contingency Plans for Movements](#) document provides a template to capture the normal delivery frequency for feed ingredients, if the delivery could stay outside of the line of separation (LOS), and if the frequency should change in your contingency plan.
- Communicating with the nutritionist about ration modifications if:
  - Dairy products cannot be fed due to the risk of FMD virus presence.
  - Certain feedstuffs are in short supply.
  - Pastures/fields on the same premises can be used for some animals. Plan for water access that does not come from sources where other livestock have access.
- Communicating with delivery drivers about the biosecurity steps to follow on site. This may require additional farm staff available to meet trucks and perform cleaning and disinfection if crossing the LOS.
- Forage harvest delivery to ensure the vehicles and equipment do not introduce FMD virus on the tires, undercarriage, or delivery driver.
- Keeping records by capturing the details listed in the [vehicle/equipment entry and delivery log](#) available on the SMS website.

## Carcass Movements

Movement of carcasses off-site from dairies in an FMD Control Area may be prohibited or require a movement permit. All options must meet local and state regulations. Contingency plans should address:

- Options for normal mortality numbers.
- Options for large mortality numbers unrelated to FMD or a similar contagious disease (toxicity, etc.).
- Available land on-site or immediately adjacent.
- Options for prevention of scavengers.
- Carbon sources if composting or incinerating; start with on-site options such as wood chips, straw, or dried manure solids as external supply and shipment options may be limited in an outbreak.

## Manure Movements

Some SAHOs may require a movement permit for manure off-site from dairies in an FMD Control Area for traceability purposes. All options must meet local and state regulations. Contingency plans should address:

- Capacity to store or compost manure on-site and planning for the most limited time (days, weeks, months).
- Options to apply manure to immediately adjacent pastures or fields if land resources are part of the premises.
  - Prepare to meet movement permit criteria.
  - Consult with experts in manure/nutrient management planning.
- Communicating with manure handling personnel about the biosecurity steps to follow on site. This may require additional farm staff available to meet vehicles and perform cleaning and disinfection if crossing the LOS.

## Glossary

**Control Area:** A designated zone around an Infected Premises to contain and limit the local spread of the virus. It includes an Infected Zone and a Buffer Zone and is at least 10 km (~6.21 miles) beyond the perimeter of the closest Infected Premises. Strict quarantines and movement controls are enforced to prevent the movement of infected animals, products, and contaminated materials. (Source: USDA FMD Response Plan, 2020)

**Enhanced biosecurity:** Heightened measures on a site designed to protect livestock from highly contagious diseases during an outbreak. (Source: SMS Plan, 2026)

**Infected Premises:** Premises where presumptive positive case or confirmed positive case exists based on laboratory results, compatible clinical signs, FMD case definition, and international standards. (Source: USDA FMD Response Plan, 2020)

**Line of Separation (LOS):** A clearly identified boundary around, or within, a premises to separate off-farm from on-farm movements of vehicles, people and animals to limit exposing animals. (Source: SMS Enhanced Biosecurity Information Manual: Dairy, 2026)

**Permit:** Issued by regulatory officials to document movements of specific items into, within, and out of a regulatory Control Area once requirements are met. (Source: USDA FAD PReP Manual 6-0: Permitted Movement, 2017)

**Regulatory Officials:** Local, state, tribal, and federal officials authorized to enforce laws protecting agricultural health and managing disease outbreaks.

## Acknowledgements

This guidance document was made possible by a USDA NADPRP grant (AP24VSSP0000C067) to the National Milk Producers Federation. Content was written by Preventalytics then reviewed by a Technical Committee consisting of representatives from the dairy industry, state and federal agencies, NAHLN laboratories, dairy veterinarians, extension, and academia.

## Comments

Please send questions, 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.