

Foot and Mouth Disease Cattle

Foot and mouth disease has been confirmed in Germany. Here, you can find important information about FMD.

Cattle - observable symptoms may include

- Smacking
- Saliva
- Sores or blisters on the tongue
- Mouth sores or blisters
- Sores or blisters in the hoof cleft
- Sores or blisters on the nipples
- Decreased milk production.

Incubation period – at what point do animals become infectious?

The incubation period, which is the time from infection to the onset of symptoms, typically ranges from 2 to 8 days.

Animals can transmit the virus up to four days before the onset of symptoms.

Fifty percent of infected animals harbor the virus for 9 months, while some can carry it for up to 2 years.

Transmission pathways – how does the disease disseminate?

Direct transmission: Viruses are readily spread from one animal to another.

2. Secretions: Viruses can be detected in saliva, drool, milk, semen, feces, and urine.

Semen may be infectious before the onset of symptoms, and artificial insemination has the potential to transmit infection.

Milk from infected animals can transmit infections to offspring and other herds through milk tankers.

- Viruses can remain airborne for several hours and can be transmitted over considerable distances by wind. The risk is highest in foggy and humid conditions, whereas viruses are quickly deactivated when humidity falls below 60%.
- The virus can be transmitted by individuals via clothing, skin, or the respiratory tract.
- Means of transportation and equipment that have come into contact with infected animals can transmit the virus to other animals.

Prevention

- Limit interactions between your animals and other animals or individuals who have been in contact with infected herds.
- Ensure comprehensive cleaning and disinfection of transportation, clothing, and equipment – we recommend a 48-hour quarantine for employees who have previously worked abroad before returning to the farm.
- Monitor for symptoms like blistering and respond promptly if you suspect an infection.
- Prohibit hunters from importing meat, trophies, and equipment from foreign countries to Denmark until the infection tracing process is finalized.
- React promptly if you suspect an infection – it can protect your herd from severe repercussions.

