

## A WORD OF WARNING THAT MUST BE HEEDED.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) IS RAMPANT IN PARTS OF EUROPE  
FMD IS A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE AND MUST BE REPORTED. IF YOU SUSPECT  
FMD IN YOUR ANIMALS YOU MUST REPORT IT BY TELEPHONE TO 03000 200  
301

- Central Europe is facing a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak among cattle, leading to border closures and the culling of thousands of animals.
- The first case was detected in Hungary in early March 2025, and the virus quickly spread to Slovakia, marking the first outbreak in both countries in over 50 years.
- The highly contagious virus poses little threat to humans but severely impacts cloven-hoofed animals. It spreads through animal contact, contaminated surfaces, and even wind.
- Authorities are implementing strict containment measures, including border closures, disinfection of farms and vehicles, and movement restrictions.
- While no new cases have been reported in Hungary recently, the outbreak's origin remains uncertain, with a Hungarian official suggesting the possibility of a "biological attack," though without providing concrete evidence. Farmers face significant losses and challenges in restarting their operations.
- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has recently been detected in Germany, Hungary, and Slovakia, prompting a ban on personal meat imports from these countries into Great Britain. While there are currently no cases in the UK, the UK government is urging livestock keepers to remain vigilant. The FMD outbreaks in Europe have led to biosecurity measures and increased surveillance.
- This latest outbreak comes just two months after FMD was detected in a herd of water buffalo near Berlin in Germany, which cost up to €1 billion (US\$1.09 billion) in lost export sales.
- The UK was one of the first countries to implement a ban on all imports of live cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, deer, etc as well as imports of meat and dairy products from Hungary and Slovakia.
- UK Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Christine Middlemiss, said, "We remain in contact with our Hungarian counterparts to understand the latest situation following their confirmation of a single case of foot and mouth disease.
- "I would urge livestock keepers to exercise the upmost vigilance for signs of disease, follow scrupulous biosecurity and report any suspicion of disease immediately to the Animal and Plant Health Agency."
- European authorities do not want a repeat of the 2001 FMD epidemic that saw millions of animals slaughtered across nations.
- In the UK, over 6 million animals were slaughtered at a cost of over €15 billion to the agricultural and tourism sectors.

- The UK government has extended the ban on meat and dairy imports for personal use to protect British farmers from foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).
- Travellers are no longer be able to bring cattle, sheep, goat, and pig meat, as well as dairy products, from European Union countries into Britain for personal use.
- This includes bringing items like sandwiches, cheese, cured meats, raw meats or milk into Britain.
- This is regardless of whether it is packed or packaged or whether it has been bought at duty free.
- DEFRA said that there are a limited set of exemptions from these rules, including a limited amount of infant milk, medical foods and certain composite products like chocolate, confectionery, bread, cakes, biscuits and pasta continue to be allowed.

SO, PLEASE READER, OBSERVE THE ABOVE RULES AND DO YOUR BIT TO KEEP THE UK FREE FROM THIS DEVASTATING DISEASE. MANY OLDER READERS WILL REMEMBER THE FUNERAL PYRES OF ANIMALS ACROSS THE UK, THE SADNESS, HEARTBREAK OF THE FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE COSTS TO WE, THE CONSUMER, OF THE LOSS OF THIS VITAL FOOD SOURCE.

THANK YOU

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Thank you

