



National Cattlemen's
Beef Association

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE BANK

Overview

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is an extremely contagious viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals and some wildlife species. While the United States has not experienced an outbreak since 1929, FMD is a significant threat to American cattle producers. International travel and trade provide pathways and create a substantial risk for the virus to enter the United States through animal products, people, and other vectors.

In the past, the United States' FMD outbreak response strategy relied on depopulation of affected cattle. However, regulatory authorities and livestock industries now support a shift toward managing an outbreak through vaccination. As the United States shifts to a greater reliance on vaccination as the primary method of response to a potential FMD outbreak, the need for an expanded U.S. FMD vaccine bank grows.

The Current Situation

The current FMD vaccine bank in the United States is located at Plum Island, NY, and only contains enough vaccine to meet the need of a small, confined FMD outbreak. Additionally, preparation of a vaccine, from onset until delivery of a ready-to-administer dose, would currently take weeks. By the time vaccines could be administered, the entire beef industry would be in devastation. Also, worldwide FMD vaccine production is limited, and there is no surge capacity available to produce the millions of doses needed in the event of a large-scale outbreak in the United States. Companies are currently producing FMD vaccine at maximum capacity for their regular customers around the world and could not abandon the needs of their established customers to produce vaccine for the United States.

NCBA's Proposed Solution

As part of the 2018 Farm Bill, NCBA supports full mandatory funding of \$150 million a year for five years to provide for a robust U.S. FMD vaccine bank, capable of responding rapidly and effectively to any potential FMD outbreak.

While this is a significant request, it must be considered against the projected economic consequences of an FMD outbreak in the U.S.

What's At Stake

An outbreak of FMD would immediately close all export markets. The beef export losses alone within the first year would be estimated at around \$6.34 billion, not to mention the cumulative impact of an outbreak on the beef and pork sectors over a 10-year period would be more than \$128 billion. The impact would also be felt well outside of animal agriculture. Corn and soybean farmers would lose \$44 billion and nearly \$25 billion, respectively, making the impact on these four industries alone almost \$200 billion.

These costs can only be mitigated if the U.S. mounts a swift and thorough response once FMD is detected within our borders. Such a response is entirely reliant on having an adequate vaccine bank; there is no other option to prevent such catastrophic losses. Critically, it must be understood that the U.S. needs to make this investment now. Waiting to buy vaccine when we need it is simply not an option for thousands of farmers, ranchers, and consumers across the nation. Current world production is committed to other countries and vaccine simply will not be available to us unless we start building our FMD vaccine capacity now.