

Foot & Mouth Disease  
Overview of Measures  
taken in Ireland.  
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- *Chronology of Events*
- *Organisational Response*
- *Actions taken*
- *Expert Advisory Group*
- *Current Situation & Evolution*

Chronology of Events

- 20/2/01 : Confirmation of FMD in Essex UK
- 28/2/01 : Confirmation of FMD in Meigh Northern Ireland
- 13/3/01 : Confirmation of FMD in France
- 21/3/01 : Confirmation of FMD in Netherlands
- 22/3/01 : Confirmation of FMD in Ireland
- 13/3/01 : Confirmation of New O/Bs Northern Ireland

Organisational Response

- Response Plan based on FMD Contingency Plan
- NDCC
- Expert Advisory Group
- District Veterinary Offices
- Ports and Airports
- LDCC ( following Co.Louth O/B)
- Special Investigation Unit
- Gardai/ Army/Civil Defence
- Other Gov Depts - Interdepartmental group

Action from 21/2/01  
FMD GB

- Immediate ban on import UK susceptible animals/products
- Mobilisation to border - 31 designated border crossings 23/2/01
- Measures at ports and airports
- Banning of marts
- Extension of UK ban - horses/machinery/hay&straw/ other
- Susceptible species movement restriction 28/2/01
- Breeding/AI ban
- Intensive Media Campaign

Further Actions

- Suspension routine official farm visits TB/BR testing, headage, advisory.
- Advice notes to Veterinary Surgeons and 130,000 farmers
- Permit system for movement to slaughter of susceptible species 5/3/01
- Permit system for movement of horses 8/3/01
- Swill feeding ban
- Confiscation personal imports meat and milk products
- Emergency Legislation

Further Actions -  
continued

- FMD - France & Netherlands - extension of controls - portal / airport staff
- New cases FMD N.I.- re-imposition of permit system
- Statutory ban on persons entering farms coming from Agricultural holdings UK

Action taken regarding  
Animal Imports

- Trace and cull of UK imports susceptible species in accordance Decision 2001/172
- Intensive trace on Meigh contacts
- Holding restrictions/sampling/culls
- Culling of ~5500 animals of susceptible species outside Louth
- Restriction of ~2100 Holdings ( 730 Louth)
- Preparation of cases for prosecution

Public Events/Locations  
Public Response

- Positive Public Response
- Disinfection measures promoted
- Access to Agricultural Land restrictions
- Sporting and Cultural events cancelled or postponed
- Closure of Zoos and Public Parks
- Ban on Hill-Walking/ Fishing/Pony Trekking
- Travel to/from UK discouraged
- Inconvenience/ Commercial difficulties

Action taken regarding  
Suspect Cases

- 24-hour/ 7-day response NDCC and DVOs
- In excess of 158 reports
- Investigation and filing
- Restriction of holdings
- Closure of abattoirs
- Sampling - serology/suspect lesions
- Precautionary Culling - no positives
- De-restricting

Sampling

- ~ 23,000 samples screened at VRL Abbotstown ( ELISA)
- Two-thirds Louth
- samples submitted to Pirbright England - confirmatory procedures
- 44 holdings primary or trace suspect (lesion material where present)
- Nationwide serosurveillance underway

Co.Louth LDCC

- Established near border 28/2/01
- Susceptible species -mainly sheep
- Control Zones following Meigh and Proleek
- Intensive checks at perimeter Control Zone
- Co-ordination with DARD
- Epidmiological investigation
- Gardai & SIU investigation
- Extended cull Cooley Peninsula
- Destruction - Rendering policy
- Continued restrictions/ re-stocking

Expert Advisory Group  
Guidelines and Protocols

- EG established 9/3/01
- Consider controls & adaptations
- Assess risks
- **Guidelines for Risk Groups**
- FMD preventative measures equestrian events
- AI services
- Greyhound Industry
- Importation of horses from UK
- Infrastructural Works
- Tourism
- Farm to farm movement of bovines

Commission Decision  
2001/234 Ireland

- Co. Louth Annex I/ Remainder Annex II 22/3/01
- Movement susceptible spp. for export already in place
- Audit of processes & control procedures - supplementary certification of animal products
- Supplementary certification for horses
- Louth trade restrictions - no exports

Commission Decision  
2001/234 Ireland -  
cont'd

- Lifting of Protection Zone 12/4/01
- Expiry of Decision 19/4/01 - Co.Louth trade restrictions removed except Control Zone
- Lifting of Surveillance Zone 30/4/01 following sero-survey

Evolution - Current  
Situation

- Phased Resumption of activities - on basis of Expert Group recommendations & protocols
- Maintenance of strict controls at border/ports/airports
- No sheep shearing until 28th May
- No marts until 18th June
- No Farm machinery GB
- Movement permit system - cattle, pigs and sheep
- Restocking policy Proleek
- National serosurveillance - 200,000 sheep/3500 flocks