



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate E - Food Safety: plant health, animal health and welfare, international questions
E2 - Animal health and welfare, zootechnics

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Brussels,
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URGENT FAX - URGENT

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Number of pages:	1 + 2		

Subject: Information from Ireland in relation to measures taken in IRL and the absence of suspect cases in Ireland

Message:

Find also annexed a letter from Dr. Gaynor detailing the measures taken by Ireland in relation to the outbreaks of FMD in the UK and reassuring that there is no suspect nor confirmed cases of FMD in IRL.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard Van Goethem
Head of Unit

cc: R. J. Coleman, M. Scannell, A. Checchi Lang, J. Nymand-Christensen, P. Prendergast, S. Hutchins, R. Vanhoorde, B. Gminder (SANCO), J. Heine, P. De Winne (AGRI)



AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA, BIA AGUS FORBARTHA TUAITHE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
(DUBLIN 2)

1 March 2001

**RE: PROTECTION MEASURES TAKEN IN IRELAND FOLLOWING THE
OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND.**

To All EU CVOs

Dear Colleague,

Re: Measures taken by Ireland in relation to Foot and Mouth Disease

I understand that there are a lot of rumours being circulated about the situation in the Republic of Ireland and my purpose in writing to you is to give you up to date information. At the outset I want to reassure you that at present there are no suspect or confirmed cases of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Republic of Ireland.

The following sets out the protection measures implemented in Ireland since the 20 February and informs you of the latest developments.

Following notification of the outbreak on Tuesday, 20 February, Ireland imposed an immediate ban on imports from the United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland) of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, deer and on a the full range of animal products from such animals. To secure the land frontier with Northern Ireland the police and army authorities have been placed on the border. Arrangements were put in place for the disinfection of all vehicles and persons at entry points into the State.

During the following days as the outbreaks in the United Kingdom continued a range of additional measures were implemented. These include a nation-wide ban on livestock markets, a ban on the movement of all susceptible animals within the country and for export, other than those going direct for slaughter in the State. This will apply for a period of 28 days. A ban has been introduced on the importation of horses and working dogs from the UK in order to reduce the possibility of spread by such means. There are many other measures in force as well designed to stop any spread of FMD (e.g. the importation of used agricultural machinery). A public information campaign has alerted the population to the risk and to the precautions which must be taken. Sporting fixtures, both national and international, and public meetings and gatherings have been cancelled.

In addition to the above and as a result of the outbreak in Northern Ireland, a surveillance zone has been introduced along the border in the area adjacent to the outbreak in Northern Ireland.

Imports of sheep since 1 February from Great Britain have been traced. Two consignments of sheep (800 sheep in all) were imported to a farm in County Wexford. These sheep have been tested at Pirbright and have proved negative for Foot and

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Mouth Disease, but as a precautionary measure and in line with the Commission Decision they are being slaughtered.

One consignment of 248 sheep imported from Northern Ireland was slaughtered in an abattoir in County Roscommon on 20 February last. This was just prior to the imposition of the measures of prohibition. These sheep were part of a consignment sent from Scotland on 18 February and destined for an abattoir in Northern Ireland for immediate slaughter. In the event the consignment did not arrive at that destination. Instead it now appears that some sheep from the consignment were taken to Meigh, Newry, Northern Ireland on the 19th February, the premises which is now the subject of Foot and Mouth Disease in Northern Ireland. The balance of the consignment was exported to the Republic of Ireland on 20 February and slaughtered that morning in the abattoir in County Roscommon.

As a result of this Immediate precautionary measures were taken on the date we were notified by the Northern Ireland authorities of this event, including the restriction of farms and the surveillance of farm animals on farms connected with abattoir employees and other contact or at risk herds. These remain under restriction and there are no signs of FMD.

It should be borne in mind that the sheep in Northern Ireland only developed clinical signs suggestive of Foot and Mouth Disease on 28 February, eight days after the sheep were slaughtered in County Roscommon.

Finally I want to reassure you that at present there are no suspect or confirmed cases of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Republic of Ireland.

I will keep you informed of any further developments.

Yours sincerely,



M.C. Gaynor
Chief Veterinary Officer