

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 9/12/2007

GAIN Report Number: UK7023

United Kingdom Livestock and Products UK Confirms New Case of FMD on Cattle Farm 2007

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Report Highlights:

On Wednesday September 12, 2007, the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) confirmed a new case of Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) on a cattle farm near Egham, Surrey. This comes after the UK had declared itself FMD free following two cases in early August.

Includes PSD Changes: No Includes Trade Matrix: No Annual Report London [UK1] On Wednesday, September 12, 2007, the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) confirmed a new case of Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) on a cattle farm near Egham, Surrey, England, about 20 miles south west of London. In addition to the EU-mandated measures such as Protection and Surveillance Zones, Defra has imposed a movement ban of cattle, sheep, pigs and other ruminants in England and parallel arrangements are being made by the Scottish and Welsh administrations to prevent the disease spreading from Milton Park Farm.

The farm has been under restrictions since the evening of September 11, 2007 and a 10km (6.2 miles) control zone was set up around the suspected outbreak at 09.35 British Summer Time. The cattle from the herd were slaughtered on the morning of September 12, 2007.

Earlier in the summer, two farms tested positive for the disease – a cattle farm in Surrey on August 3, 2007 and another nearby farm on August 7, 2007.

On September 8, 2007, the UK Government declared Surrey to be Foot & Mouth free.

A report into the previous outbreak found, it was probably caused by leaking drains, heavy rain and construction work at the Pirbright laboratory site. This was situated 4 miles from where the first case of the disease was originally found. The new infected area is about 10 miles from the Pirbright laboratory site.

On September 11, The EC's Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) met in Brussels to review the EU's trade restrictions on the UK related to FMD. It was agreed that Commission Decision 2007/ 554/EC will be lifted to permit trade to resume under normal Intra-Community conditions with the exception of live biungulates from the former FMD surveillance zone.

Following this latest case, the EU has halted plans to lift the export ban on livestock products from the area around the original outbreak.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown is due to chair an emergency Government Committee meeting on the afternoon of September 12, 2007.

Further information on the latest status of FMD can be found at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd/latest-situation/index.htm