

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Rheynn Eirinys, Eeastaght as Keylljyn

Animal Health Division

ADVICE TO FARMERS

Because there have been no livestock imports into the Island for over two months the Department does not see the need to prohibit livestock movements within the Island. However, this situation will be kept under constant review; should the situation in the UK deteriorate, restrictions may be put in place.

In the meantime, the Department advises farmers to review their biosecurity practices. Leaving aside Foot and Mouth Disease there is no doubt that future improvements in general herd health will require far greater attention to be paid to farm gate controls and general farm hygiene. There is no better time than now to establish new practices.

The farm gate:

- **Keep it shut!**
 - There is no easier way to prevent unnecessary visitors
 - Put your telephone number on the gate
- **Provide a postbox at the gate**
 - Postmen drive from farm to farm – this is an avoidable disease risk

Visiting other farms / sales:

- **Arrive with clean boots, clothes and hands**
- **Arrive with clean vehicles especially wheels and clean machinery**
 - dung spreads disease – keep yours at home!
- **If you regularly work on a friend's farm – why not leave boots and overalls there?**
- **Leave the farm as clean as you arrived.**

Holding a sale:

- **Request all clients arrive in clean vehicles and clothing**
- **Provide a bootwash**
 - Hosepipe and brush off soil first
 - Ensure disinfectant is replenished
 - Contamination with animal dung will stop disinfectant working and render a boot-dip useless
- **Stock wagons should arrive clean**
- **Leave the sale as clean as you arrived.**

Accepting Contractors:

Require contractors to:

- **Arrive with clean boots**
- **Arrive with clean machinery**

Contractors move from farm to farm, they are a clear disease risk that can be reduced by simple practices

Hauliers:

- **Collect animals together before the haulier arrives**
 - Don't leave other animals in the same pen
 - Don't ask the haulier to tag or sort the animals
 - Don't allow the haulier to unload animals in transit onto your farm
- **Load the animals yourself**
- **Best practice is to provide a loading bay outside the farmyard.**

Arrive Clean : Leave Clean!