

# FOOT - and - MOUTH Disease

## Public Information

### Factsheet 6

## Precautions to be exercised by people working in the countryside

The livelihoods of many people are closely linked to the countryside. Visits to farms, across farmland and other open country including Ministry of Defence property, could bring contact with livestock susceptible to foot and mouth disease. It is possible, therefore, that inadvertently, infection could be carried to/or from places visited.

### **Before visiting a farm/farmland you should consider:**

- Is your visit absolutely essential?
- Appointments or visits should be rearranged or arrangements made over the phone, by fax or e-mail.
- You will be required to follow strict cleansing procedures which could include leaving your vehicle outside the farm, disinfecting boots, and wearing boots or clothing supplied by the farm.
- Do not allow children to accompany you unless absolutely necessary and they too must disinfect to the required standard.
- You will be required to disclose any previous contact with other livestock.

### **On the farm**

Whilst on the farm, visit only essential locations. Visit stock only if absolutely necessary and ensure you have the owners permission. Do not wander round buildings. If it has not been possible to contact the owner beforehand, delay the visit.

**Take responsibility for your own actions whilst visiting farms and ensure the highest standards of personal disinfection and cleanliness is carried out at all times. Arrive at the farm clean. Wear a material that can be cleansed and disinfected Ensure that your vehicle is kept clean.**



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### Leaving the farm

- Ensure that all mud, slurry or manure is washed off **before** leaving the premises.
- Disinfectant (and water if needed) should be carried in vehicles at all times (Health and Safety guidelines will apply).
- Apply disinfectant after washing.

**Advice on approved disinfectants is available on the website or from the local Animal Health Office.**

Spraying is the most effective method, not forgetting tyres and the underside of the vehicle. Spraying should be undertaken even if there is a wheel dip or disinfectant mat in place. Concentrated disinfectant may be caustic and require protective clothing to be worn. **Always check the label first.**

Once the vehicle is clean consider personal cleaning and disinfection. Ensure all clothing and boots are disinfected before they are put into the vehicle. A foot dip or spray should be provided.

Disposable items should either be left on the farm or sealed in a plastic bag. They will be disposed of by burning.

**It is essential that all visits to farms and possible contact with animals are recorded. Should disease occur on a farm then these records will be used to trace movements and possible spread of the disease. The records should include the date and time of visits.**

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**Further copies of this leaflet can be obtained from Miss Marie Chapman,  
Animal Disease Control Division, Room 104, 1a Page Street,  
London SW1P 4PQ**

**Tel: 020 7904 6066 (email: [m.chapman@ahvg.maff.gov.uk](mailto:m.chapman@ahvg.maff.gov.uk))**

**MAFF have set up a helpline for callers wanting general advice on  
Foot and Mouth Disease. The number is 0845 0504141 (local rate)  
8.00am to 11.00pm seven days a week.**

**Information is also available on the MAFF website  
[www.maff.gov.uk](http://www.maff.gov.uk)**

