

News Release - **Foot and Mouth**

16/08/2007

Two more movement ban amendments come into effect from midnight tonight as a result of appeals yesterday by the livestock industry and the improving disease picture.

Farmers will be allowed to move animals with acute welfare problems distances up to 50 km. At present movements are only permitted by specific licences up to 20 km.

Movement of susceptible animals within farm business will also be permitted under a general licence up to a maximum of eight km.

Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, who met key industry representatives yesterday, said:

"It is clearly a difficult time for everyone involved in farming.

"I am delighted that we are able to respond to these specific concerns raised at the meeting and get them sorted.

"We are considering further changes in response to the helpful feedback from the industry and in terms of the improving disease picture.

"We will do whatever we can as quickly as we can - as long as it is safe and the right time to do so"

Organisations represented at the meeting included the National Farmers Union Scotland, Quality Meat Scotland, National Sheep Association, Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers, Meat Hygiene Service, Scottish Beef Cattle Association, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Road Haulage Association, British Retail Consortium, National Beef Association of Scotland, and Scottish Rural Property and Business Association.

The Scottish government helpline for farmers is 0845 1553366

2. Useful Website Updates

- General licence for the movement of foot-and-mouth disease susceptible animals for routine farming/husbandry operations

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/SpecificDisease/FootAndMouthDisease/Licences/FMDroutinefarming>

- General licence for the movement of older cattle for slaughter in an approved slaughterhouse (No. 3) (OCDS)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/SpecificDisease/FootAndMouthDisease/Licences/OCDS>

- Amendment to the general licence for the movement of animal by-products derived from foot-and-mouth disease susceptible animals from an approved slaughterhouse allowing for multiple pick-ups

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/SpecificDisease/FootAndMouthDisease/Licences/FMDAnimalBy-products>

- FAQ (updated 16 August)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/SpecificDisease/FootAndMouthDisease/FMDFAQ/FMDFAQDiseasebackground>

Finally Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment sent a letter to all Scottish livestock keepers today.

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