



# Emergency animal disease: lumpy skin disease, foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever

## Talking points

Updated: 8 August 2022

### Situation overview

- Indonesia is currently dealing with outbreaks of lumpy skin disease (LSD) and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).
- Since 2018, African swine fever (ASF) has spread across Europe and Asia. Outbreaks of ASF in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea have brought this disease very close to Australia.
- Queensland and Australia remain free of FMD, LSD and ASF and we want to keep it that way.
- An incursion of these animal diseases would have significant impacts on livestock industries in rural and regional Queensland. This could include immediate closure of live animal and meat export markets, disruption of food supply chains, livestock movement restrictions, destruction of livestock and vaccination.
- The Queensland Government, working closely with industry, has ramped up its efforts on emergency animal disease awareness, preparedness, and prevention.
- Should FMD/LSD be detected in Queensland, containment and eradication efforts will be delivered according to the [AUSVETPLAN](#) response strategies.
- Every livestock owner, producer or worker plays a vital part in Queensland's biosecurity surveillance activities.
- There is no threat to human health for any of these diseases. FMD is not the same as hand-foot-and-mouth disease, which is common in young children.
- The risk of FMD disease affecting this year's Ekka is considered low. Livestock events will run as normal and as planned with increased biosecurity measures in place.

### What livestock owners and producers can do

- Livestock owners are best placed to undertake surveillance – you know your animals best.
- Key actions livestock producers can take now:
  - **LOOK** – for and know the signs of animal disease.
  - **REPORT** – suspect cases of FMD, LSD or ASF to your veterinarian and the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 immediately.
  - **PROTECT** – your livestock and livelihood.
- Have a [biosecurity management plan](#) in place and ensure it is being followed by everyone who visits your property.
- Ensure you are a [registered biosecurity entity](#). Registration helps to quickly locate animals and contact livestock owners in the event of an animal disease emergency in Queensland.
- People who invite visitors to their farms should check if they have travelled overseas recently, provide biosecurity advice about safe handling and feeding

animals and have appropriate wash stations and products available for people to practise personal hygiene **before and after** interacting with animals.

- Do not feed prohibited feed to pigs (swill feeding). Food that contains or has been in contact with meat, meat products, eggs, imported milk or milk products or untreated cooking fats and oils must not be fed to pigs.
- Feeding pigs 'people' food could spread deadly animal diseases like foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever. That is why it's illegal in Queensland.

## **Traveller advice**

- Anyone who travels to Indonesia, or any other country affected by FMD, must take steps to ensure they do not bring the disease back into Australia.
- Avoid interacting with livestock and going to farms in Indonesia. If you have had contact with livestock or visited a rural area, avoid contact with Australian livestock or farms for 7 days after your return.
- Before returning to Australia, ensure footwear and clothing is clean by washing your shoes and clothes to make sure they are free of any mud, animal manure and mucus. If they cannot be cleaned effectively, leave them behind.
- Declare on your incoming passenger card if you have been near livestock or in a rural area.
- Avoid bringing back any souvenirs or other goods that are made of hide or feature animal hair.
- Don't bring in any meat or food containing meat. Any leftover food served during your flight, or purchased at the airport, must be left on the plane.

## **About LSD, FMD and ASF**

### **Lumpy skin disease**

- Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a serious disease of cattle and water buffalo. It has never occurred in Australia but is an emerging threat as it continues to spread through Asia.
- LSD causes painful skin lesions. Other signs include fever, watery eyes, loss of appetite, swelling of the limbs, brisket and genitals, reduction in milk production and a reluctance to move.
- LSD is predominantly spread through biting insects including flies, mosquitoes and ticks. It can also be spread by contaminated clothing and equipment, and in some cases animal to animal.
- LSD is most likely to enter Australia via insects carried into Northern Australia on wind currents.
- In May 2022, an outbreak of FMD was reported in cattle in Indonesia. In July 2022, the disease was reported in Bali.
- This is the closest this disease has been to Australia.

### **Foot-and-mouth disease**

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease which affects cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, pigs, sheep, buffalo, deer, camelids and goats.
- FMD-infected animals may show fever, drooling and be reluctant to move. Animals may have fluid-filled blisters (vesicles) on the mouth, snout, tongue, lips or between and above the hooves which can rupture leaving open sores.

- FMD is most likely to enter Australia via illegally imported meat or animal products, which are then fed to pigs. It could also enter on the clothing or footwear of travellers.
- A large multi-state FMD outbreak has an estimated direct economic impact over 10 years of around \$80 billion.
- In March 2022, an outbreak of LSD was reported in cattle in Indonesia.
- This is the closest this disease has been to Australia.

### **African swine fever**

- African swine fever (ASF) is an infectious viral disease affecting domestic and feral pigs and can have a very high mortality rate.
- Pigs infected with ASF may have a fever, depression/listlessness, decreased appetite, reluctance to move, red/blotchy skin, discharge from eyes and nose, diarrhoea, vomiting, abortion, coughing and/or difficulty breathing.
- ASF is most likely to enter Australia via illegally imported meat or animal products, which are then fed to pigs.
- If ASF was detected in Australia, it could cause significant impacts to our domestic and export pig industries, along with the communities these businesses support.

### **Queensland Government prevention and preparedness**

- The Queensland Government is working closely with the Federal Government, other state governments and our industry taskforce partners to prevent and prepare for emergency animal disease threats, including FMD, LSD and ASF.
- The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has established an Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Taskforce, which includes affected industries and the supply chain, to focus on FMD and LSD, partnering with all levels of government and the livestock industry supply chain.
- The Queensland Government has announced \$22 million over five years to boost preparedness for biosecurity emergencies, including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), lumpy skin disease (LSD), and African swine fever (ASF).
- Beyond this an ongoing annual investment of \$2.4 million to further build Queensland's existing capacity to address increasing biosecurity risks in animal and plant pests and diseases, after the initial five-year investment.
- Key initiatives from this funding include:
  - employing at least 10 additional frontline biosecurity officers across rural and regional Queensland
  - increased support for our emergency animal disease preparedness team
  - providing communications, engagement and training support to industry to ensure uptake of preparedness strategies
  - boosting Queensland's coordinated feral pig control capability.
- The Queensland Government is an active participant in the National LSD Taskforce, which has developed an LSD Action Plan setting out priorities to strengthen Australia's LSD biosecurity, preparedness, response and recovery. This National Task Force has been extended to include FMD.
- Queensland is continuing to collaborate on national strategies for FMD and LSD prevention including [AUSVETPLAN](#), the nationally-agreed approach for the response to emergency animal disease (EAD) incidents in Australia. These arrangements are also outlined at [outbreak.gov.au](https://www.outbreak.gov.au).

## **For more information**

- The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has an online portal of resources for livestock owners and industry stakeholders with FMD and LSD prevention and preparedness resources – visit the eHub at <https://daf.engagementhub.com.au/animal-disease-preparedness>