

7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

All Asst. General Managers/Farm Managers/Veterinary Surgeons

### **FMD ALERT – 3<sup>rd</sup> Notice**

I have issued the first FMD alert on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and second on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 with regard to the ongoing outbreak condition in the country specially in North Western Province (NWP). The FMD condition is still spreading in the province and there is a risk of spreading to other provinces as well.

By to date, some of NLDB farms or divisions were affected namely Koulwewa, Narangalla, Nikaweratiya, Galpokuna, Marandawila, Martin and Siringapatha farm. There is a high risk of spreading the disease in to other unaffected farms in the region if the bio-security protocols are not strictly followed. Therefore, I urge you to follow the recommendations/guidelines given in previous 'FMD Alert' notifications.

Furthermore, fresh cases are reported in Girandurukotte area (Badulla District) and Athimale area (Monaragala District) according to the DAPH sources. Therefore, the farms outside the NWP should also be vigilant and take precautions stated below. The Ridiyagama farm which is the main dairy farm should be protected from every possible ways of entering the disease. The Bos Taurus cattle is more prone to the disease than Bos indicus cattle. The damage would be massive if affected.

#### **General Instructions**

1. Restrict vehicle/people/machinery/feed etc..movements into the farms or towards the areas of current FMD outbreak is reported.
2. Control entering of visitors to the farms.
3. Display notices on gates to restrict entering unauthorized people/animals/vehicles
4. Activate tyre dips/spray systems by using virucidal chemicals (FAM 30, VIREX are recommended) at correct dose
5. Specially, when issuing culled animals the buyers/vehicles should not be allowed to enter the animal premises and suitable alternative ways should be used. Because, these vehicles and people can carry the virus in to the farm since it is a very resistant virus which can survive in the environment even under harsh conditions for very long period of time.
6. Even an authorized vehicle is entering our farms it should be sprayed with virucidal chemicals at the gate. (Specially, milk transport vehicles and farm product transporting vehicles).
7. Activate foot baths for animals and workers. Strictly follow this for the workers coming from outside of the farm premises. Animal owners/keepers may be working in the farm so restrict them working with farm animals. Provide disinfectants for them to get cleaned at entrance.
8. Keep a stock of antibiotics for emergency use (Penicillin group is preferred). Any farm should have antibiotic stock for treating minimum 50 nos animals at once in this emergency period.
9. Keep the animals on a good nutritional plane because weak animals/stressed animals will be affected first. Losses due to deaths can be minimized if animals are in good condition.
10. Consult the veterinarian assigned to your farm whenever there is a suspected case. If any confirmation is made on the presence of the disease in the farm, all the animal/people/vehicle movements in and out of the farm should be stopped.

#### **Special Recommendations**

1. Stop vehicle/people/animal movements in between coconut triangle farms
2. Avoid visiting coconut triangle farms until the outbreak is over and declared risk free

3. Milk/Feed collecting/supply vehicles usually travel to the main dairy area. It should be avoided and alternative options should be considered with regard to them. These vehicle are the main mode of transmission in between farms because specially the milk collecting vehicles are travelling daily in between farms.
4. The veterinary surgeon may carry the virus from an infected farm to another farm since he/she is in direct contact with animals. So separate pair of Gum boots and an overall kit should be available in each farm. He/she should take maximum bio-security precautions when visiting a farm in high risk area.

According to the field information some vaccinated herds are being affected too. Therefore please do not rely on the vaccination protection and all bio-security measures should be strictly followed.

Your corporation at this moment is highly appreciated.



Dr. K.G.J.S. Disnaka  
Asst. General Manager (Veterinary)

Cc: The Chairman  
The General Manager  
The Deputy General Manager