



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

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Precautions Urged In Canada Over Asian Disease Outbreak

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is urging travellers, farmers and ranchers to be aware of recommended precautions to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease to Canada from recently infected regions in Japan and Korea. The precautions are recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Foot-and mouth disease is also present in Taiwan.

Foot-and-mouth disease does not cause illness in humans, but can be easily spread by humans via contaminated clothes or footwear and in infected meat products. Foot-and-mouth disease is an extremely serious and highly contagious livestock illness that affects cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, hogs, bison, sheep etc.) The disease causes severe production losses in domestic livestock. Because of its highly contagious nature any country with an outbreak is not permitted to export livestock or meat.

"This is the start of the tourist season in Canada, and many visitors will be travelling to and from the countries where these recent outbreaks have occurred," says Arno Doerksen, Vice Chair of the CCA Animal Health Committee. "We want to make sure that the precautions urged by CFIA are taken seriously."

CFIA requests that travellers declare all meat, dairy or other animal products that they bring back to Canada. If travellers visited a farm while abroad they should clean and disinfect footwear and clothing. Those who have travelled in a country where foot-and-mouth disease is present should stay away from Canadian farms for 30 days after entering Canada.

Farmers and ranchers are requested to prevent farm visits by anyone who has been in South Korea or Japan in the past 30 days. If visitors must come to the farm or ranch they should wash and disinfect all personal effects and equipment that have accompanied them, especially footwear.

Canada's last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 1952 was believed to have been introduced by an immigrant farm worker from an infected area. If an outbreak occurred today and was not detected early and eradicated immediately, CFIA suggests losses could reach billions of dollars in the first year.

"This is precisely the reason that the cattle industry, through the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, is re-introducing a program for individually identifying cattle in Canada," says Doerksen. "If this disease were to reach our shores we would be in serious trouble. We need to have a system in place that can be quickly mobilized to trace and eliminate this type of disease."

For Further Information:

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*For more information on recommended precautions against foot-and-mouth disease contact the
Canadian Food Inspection Agency*

www.cattle.ca

CCA is the National Voice for the Beef Cattle Industry, representing over 100,000 Cattle Producers