Secure Beef Plan – What Producers Need to Know

250-word count article

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Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is very contagious and affects cattle and other two-toed (cloven-hooved) livestock. FMD does NOT affect people or food safety. Meat and milk are safe to eat. The U.S. has not had an FMD outbreak since 1929, but it can be found in more than two-thirds of the world. There is a risk of FMD introduction due to global travel and trade. If the U.S. gets FMD, one way to prevent spread will be stopping movement of cloven-hooved animals and germplasm (semen, embryos, oocytes). Once movements restart, producers will need special movement permits from State Officials.

The Secure Beef Supply (SBS) Plan was developed to support FMD control for infected herds and business continuity for uninfected herds. SBS resources can help producers prepare BEFORE an FMD outbreak. Following the guidance can help producers limit disease exposure, request a movement permit, and maintain business continuity. Producers can prepare now by:

* Having a National Premises Identification Number (PIN). Info at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/traceability/pin>
* Writing an operation-specific enhanced biosecurity plan
* Keeping movement records of animals, people, equipment, and other items onto and off your operation
* Developing contingency plans for their operation in the case of limited movement

The SBS Plan and resources at [securebeef.org](https://www.securebeef.org/) were created with input from industry, veterinarians, state and federal officials, and university partners. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) to develop more outreach materials and increase FMD awareness of producers, transporters, and other stakeholders. Start planning today to protect your cattle.

# Citation

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