FAQ's ON FMD ESSENTIALS FOR FIELD STAFF
PA Windsor

NOTE: REPORT SUSPECTED FMD IMMEDIATELY TO THE ANIMAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES!

WHAT IS THE CAUSE?
FMD is caused by a virus,
BUT there are 7 types & many strains within each type, with O & A types most common in SE Asia.
FMD infects cattle, buffaloes and pigs (but not humans) and can spread between all three species.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?
FMD is the most rapidly spreading animal disease in the world.
FDM spreads from animal to animal or via human contact between animals, including:
Uninfected animals contacting infection from animals, mud, dirt or grass of infected animals,
Humans spreading the virus between animals in their clothing, shoes or vehicles,
Feeding of meat (especially meat juices) or milk of infected animals to pigs (eg meat scraps).
NOTE even healthy animals may be 'incubating' & spread infection before showing illness.

WHAT HAPPENS TO INFECTED ANIMALS?
FMD causes the clinical signs of:
Elevated body temperatures,
Then vesicles or blisters on the mouth causing excessive salivation, difficulty eating & weight loss,
Then foot sores causing lameness or inability to get up,
Plus teat sores, difficulties with lactation (suckling milk) and calves losing weight,
Note pregnant animals may abort (lose their unborn calf),
Note piglets & some calves can die from a heart condition,
Adult cattle may recover within 2-3 weeks, although some may take months to recover lost weight.

HOW DO I PREVENT FMD?
1. Biosecurity: NEVER buy animals from a place where there is no knowledge if FMD is present or not. Even if you purchase from a 'clean' place, keep the new animals isolated for 2 weeks.
2. Vaccination: Vaccines are affordable ($1 each) and work well, providing 'protection' for 6months provided the correct type is used. NOTE that O only vaccines will not prevent infection with A type, so 'multivalent' vaccines are currently preferred.

HOW DO I TREAT INFECTED ANIMALS?
Infectious animals must be isolated from all other animals in a clean environment,
Water and 'soft' feed (young forage not rice straw) & shelter is provided plus rest
Topical treatment is with disinfectants (eg methylene blue) & astringents (eg vinegar, lemon juice)
Use of antibiotics (eg oxytetracycline) to prevent secondary infection is costly & unnecessary
Hoof sores should be kept as clean as possible & may be sprayed (eg blue methylene),
ALWAYS wash your hands and change clothing after treating to prevent spread to 'clean' animals.

SHOULD I KEEP RECOVERED ANIMALS?
After recovering from FMD, most animals are immune (protected) for at least 18 months to the 'strain' they were infected with, so retaining these is preferable to replacing them with animals of unknown FMD history.
There are occasional reports of coat changes & other signs in recovered animals, especially when treated by antibiotics. These should be reported for further investigation.

HOW CAN I HELP CONTROL FMD?
We MUST restricting all direct and indirect contact between infected and uninfected animals.
The 5 priorities to consider:
1. Households: infected and uninfected animals MUST be separated & fed & watered separately, with uninfected animals made to avoid areas where infected animals have been kept.
2. Village: infected animals or people in contact with infected animals should stay home & be NOT grazed in the fields where they can mix with other animals, especially from other villages.

3. Movements: must be restricted during an outbreak, with sick animals NEVER sold. Traders MUST NOT buy infected animals or animals from a place where there has been FMD.

4. Human activity: FMD can be spread by people on shoes, clothing and vehicles. Ensure you clean preferably with disinfectants & change these when moving from an infected place.

5. Vaccination: These work well and WE ALL NEED to encourage their routine use!

FMD MUST BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE BACTERIAL DISEASE HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA (HS), A CAUSE OF HIGH MORTALITY.
ALWAYS SEEK HELP TO CONFIRM THE DIAGNOSIS OF FMD AS ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT IS OFTEN REQUIRED FOR HS BUT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR FMD!