

Foreign Animal Disease Investigation: Producer Guidance

If you suspect a Foreign Animal Disease, report it immediately to your veterinarian, call the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship at (515) 281-5305, or the USDA at (515) 284-4140. Below are the investigation steps and expectations.

As soon as the call is made, a state or federal Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) will visit the operation, examine healthy and sick animals, and may collect diagnostic samples (such as blood, swabs, etc. from a live animal or tissue samples from a dead animal).

If the FADD determines that samples should be collected, two sets will be collected, one set of samples to the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and the other set will be sent to a USDA Lab. Note there are no labs fees when testing for a foreign animal disease. There are fees if testing for endemic diseases.

While you are waiting for the FADD to arrive, please take the following steps:

- Do not leave the farm without first speaking to your veterinarian or a state/federal animal health official
 - If you or any employees need to leave the premises:
 - Change into clean clothing/footwear, showering if able
 - Leave equipment and vehicles that contacted poultry or livestock on the operation
 - Do not handle any other susceptible animals without first talking to your veterinarian or a state/federal animal health official
- Do not allow any animals to leave or arrive without first talking to your veterinarian or a state/federal animal health official
- Put your operation's enhanced biosecurity plan in place
- During chores, care for the "healthy" animals first
- After chores, clean/disinfect your clothes/footwear
- Gather records as the FADD will need to know:
 - Animal arrival and departure dates
 - Animal product (semen, embryos, manure, milk, eggs, spent hens, etc.) arrival and departure dates
 - People traffic (visitors and employees)
 - Feed and supply deliveries
 - When the sick animals first started showing signs of illness
 - Any increase in animal sickness or deaths over the last week
 - Any wildlife presence on the operation or known contact with your animals

While the FADD is on the operation:

- Be available to answer questions and guide them throughout your operation
- First show them the animals that appear healthy and sick animals last
- Be prepared to assist with restraining animals and collecting samples if asked
- Exchange contact information so test results and next steps can be quickly communicated
- Discuss a plan to dispose of the protective outerwear worn while on your operation

Once the FADD leaves:

- Continue to implement enhanced biosecurity measures for animals, people, vehicles, equipment, supplies
- If placed under quarantine, no animals or animal products can arrive or leave unless by permission of Iowa's State Veterinarian

Results of collected samples:

- If test results are negative, work with your herd/flock veterinarian to identify the cause of disease on your farm
- If test results are positive OR if the clinical signs displayed on the farm are highly suspicious of an FAD, the Iowa Department of Agriculture will start an FAD response. No animals, animal products, or equipment will be allowed to leave. An animal health official will be assigned to your operation to guide next steps and answer questions

Last updated 1/16/2020



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