

Producer Guidance: Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Steps

Reporting & Investigation Procedure

1. If a Foreign Animal Disease is suspected, report immediately to ONE of the following
 - Your herd veterinarian
 - Illinois Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian (SAHO) at 217-784-4944
 - USDA Illinois Area Veterinarian-In-Charge (AVIC) at 217-547-6030
2. A state/federal Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) will visit the farm to investigate the report. This may include:
 - Examination of healthy and sick animals
 - Collection of diagnostic samples (blood, swabs, tissues from live/dead animals)
 - Initial epidemiologic investigation
3. If the FADD, based on the exam and epidemiologic information, determines that samples should be collected the following will occur:
 - Two sets of samples will be collected; one will be sent to the University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and the other will be sent to a USDA Lab. There are no lab fees for FAD testing (there are fees for endemic disease testing).
 - A classification (high, intermediate, or low suspicion of FAD) and priority (1-3 based on required speed of collection, transportation, and testing) will be determined by FADD/SAHO/AVIC
 - Verbal or written quarantine, as determined by State Veterinarian or representative

Prior to Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Arrival

1. Do not leave the farm without speaking with your veterinarian or state/federal animal health official
 - If you or farm employees need to leave the farm do the following:
 - Change into clean clothes and footwear and shower if possible
 - Do not remove vehicles/equipment that contacted livestock
 - Do not handle any other livestock
2. Do not allow any animals to leave/arrive without speaking with your veterinarian or state/federal animal health official
3. Implement your enhanced biosecurity plan
4. During chores, care for “healthy” animals first and clean/disinfect clothes/footwear once completed
5. Gather records the FADD may need:
 - Shipment records (on/off farm) of livestock/livestock products (semen, embryos, milk, eggs, etc.)
 - Personnel traffic (visitors and employees)
 - Health logs (to indicate when illness began, increases in sickness/death loss over the last 7-10 days)
 - Wildlife presence on the farm or any known contact with livestock

During & After Foreign Animal Disease Investigation

During FAD Investigation

1. Be on site to meet with the FADD, answer questions and guide them throughout the operation
2. Show them healthy animals first and sick animals last
3. Be prepared to assist with animal restraint and sample collection if requested to do so
4. Exchange contact information with the FADD to ensure test results and next steps can be communicated
5. Discuss with FADD how to dispose of personal protective equipment used during investigation

After FAD Investigation

1. Continue to implement your site-specific enhanced biosecurity plan
2. If placed under verbal/written quarantine, no animal/animal products can leave the premises without the approval of the state animal health official

Diagnostic Sample Results

1. Negative – Work with your herd veterinarian to determine cause of illness/disease
2. Positive – If test results are positive or highly suspicious of a FAD, the USDA AVIC and State Veterinarian will initiate a FAD response. No animals/animal products will be allowed to leave the farm. A case manager will be assigned to guide you through the next steps and to answer questions. Reference Producer Guide: FAD Response on a Positive Farm