



Animal Health Division
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
60B Moorefield Industrial Park Road, Moorefield, WV 26836
304-538-2397

Walt Helmick
Commissioner

Jewell Plumley, DVM
Director

April 24, 2015

Dear Dairy Producer:

When one or more cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) are identified in the US, control orders will be imposed on animal and animal product movements under the authority of federal and state animal health officials in order to prevent additional spread of disease. Because cattle may be infected and shedding FMD virus before clinical signs appear, raw milk transported from dairy farms in the control zone must be treated as potentially infected. Milk trucks and drivers are considered moderate to high risk for disease spread unless strict biosecurity procedures are followed.

We recognize that the inability to ship milk for an extended length of time would be financially devastating to a dairy farm, and compounded across many farms, would cause significant damage to the dairy industry. The Secure Milk Supply Program has been developed to allow milk to move from a control area if specific biosecurity measures are taken.

For a dairy farm within a control area to ship milk during an FMD outbreak, dairy producers, milk haulers and milk processors can voluntarily choose to have their State Animal Health officials (auditors) in the Mid-Atlantic Region (VA, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, NC, WV, SC, and GA) pre-event certify their premises. The Mid-Atlantic Secure Milk Supply auditors can evaluate dairy farms to be permitted for milk shipment in the event of a major biosecurity threat such as FMD or other foreign animal diseases. Conformance to the biosecurity requirements and protocols will facilitate continued movement of raw milk from farms within movement restricted areas to milk processing plants in order to help preserve the viability of dairy farms and dairy businesses without impairing disease control and eradication efforts. To obtain a pre-permit certification, the dairyman must complete a 2-hour training course and pass an on-farm biosecurity audit. Additional information is available by contacting West Virginia Department of Agriculture: Moorefield at 304-538-2397 or Charleston at 304-558-2214 and the website <http://securemilksupply.org/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jewell Plumley, DVM".

Jewell Plumley, DVM
State Veterinarian