

# Movement Decision Criteria for Industry and Regulatory Officials Managing Cattle and Sheep Grazing Federal Public Lands during a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreak

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## Executive Summary

In the event of an FMD outbreak in the United States, a national movement standstill of susceptible species will be recommended by USDA for at least the first 72-hours of an outbreak. Control Areas will be established around infected premises, and movement restrictions will be implemented. Movement into, within, or out of a Control Area will require a permit and be based on risk. When Control Areas encompass part or all of a federal public land allotment in one or more states, there are unique challenges for sheep and cattle owners to mitigate disease exposure risks. The [Movement Decision Criteria](#) guidance document describes movement options and decision criteria for industry and regulatory officials to consider when managing cattle and sheep grazing on federal public lands affected by movement controls (quarantine, Control Areas) but not infected with FMD.

The creation of this guidance document was sponsored by USDA National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP), American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). It was developed through collaborative discussions between cattle and sheep producers, Public Lands Council, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), State Animal Health Officials, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USDA Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services. Guidance aligns with the USDA FMD Response Plan (Oct 2020), and is cognizant of BLM and USFS jurisdiction, referring to the Code of Federal Regulations, instructional memorandums, manuals, and directives. Where applicable, the outbreak movement permit guidance in the Secure Sheep and Wool Supply (SSWS) and Secure Beef Supply (SBS) Plans for Continuity of Business are followed. This is **GUIDANCE ONLY**. In an actual outbreak, decisions will be made by the Responsible Regulatory Officials based on the unique characteristics of the outbreak.

Movement options for livestock grazing on federal public lands in a Control Area that are not designated as Infected, Suspect, or Contact Premises (herds/flocks) include:

1. Staying in place until the Control Area movement restrictions are lifted.
2. Moving within the Control Area.
3. Moving outside the Control Area to a biosecure location that can quarantine livestock away from susceptible species.

The decision criteria to ensure animal needs and response goals are met include:

1. Assessing availability, suitability of adequate feed/water
2. Monitoring for disease (surveillance).
3. Mitigating interactions with wildlife.
4. Controlling public access to Control Areas.
5. Implementing just-in-time biosecurity.

Additional resources available on the SSWS and SBS websites include:

- [Roles of Agencies in Non-outbreak and FMD Outbreak Situations: Permitting Federal Public Lands](#)
- [Management Practices and FMD Exposure Risks for Sheep, Cattle Grazing Public Lands](#)
- [Just-in-Time Biosecurity and FMD Exposure Questionnaire](#)