

NATIONALLY AGREED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (NASOP)

Title: Assessing and inspecting a property prior to administration of Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine

Version: 1.0

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Approved by: Animal Health Committee

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	1.0		Edited

NASOPs support national consistency and provide guidance to response personnel undertaking operational tasks.

1. Purpose

- To provide vaccination managers with information to conduct a risk assessment on properties to ensure safe and effective scheduling of foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccination to livestock as part of an approved FMD control program. This includes information on susceptible species, appropriate handling facilities and absence of disease.

2. Application/scope

- This NASOP covers all aspects of the risk assessment and provides information to allow preparation for vaccination on a property. It applies from the point of obtaining the list of properties to be vaccinated through to providing a report to the vaccination manager on likely time, resources and equipment required to conduct vaccination on each property.
- This NASOP does not cover vaccine control at the DVC (see NASOP 14: *Control of Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine at a Designated Vaccine Centre*) or management of FMD Vaccination on a property (see NASOP 17: *Vaccinating livestock on a property for Foot and Mouth*).
- This NASOP is written for any FMD vaccine.

3. Resources/equipment

3.1 Plans, permissions and authorities

- criteria for selection of properties to be vaccinated from state coordination centre (SCC) planning section.
- authorisation under jurisdiction legislation for team members to contact properties, request information and carry out inspection of animals as required
- movement permits for travel within declared areas if required
- legal notices/ forms to enable enforcement of inspection activities as required
- access to agricultural databases and land ownership maps/information

3.2 Contact and recording

- list of properties to be contacted and appropriate maps to locate properties
- generated property forms for property/stock information from BioSIRT or equivalent.
- method to contact and liaise with identified properties

3.3 Pre-vaccination inspection equipment

- appropriate equipment to conduct surveillance visit including sample collection equipment, PPE. See:
 - NASOP 45: *Conducting a field surveillance visit for Foot and Mouth Disease* and
 - NASOP 11: *Collecting emergency animal disease samples for laboratory testing*

3.4 Animal identification

- marker paint and brushes or crayons for temporary identification of inspected animals

3.5 Recording equipment

- recording forms for property inspection and animal surveillance from BioSIRT or equivalent

3.6 Occupational Health and Safety

- security provisions for staff if necessary
- emergency arrangements in case of injury

3.7 Biosecurity

- personal decontamination kit (as described in NASOP 01: *Personal decontamination—entry and exit procedure*)
- clinical waste bags for disposal of contaminated waste

3.8 Extension

- communication materials on vaccination and procedures for owner and person in charge of animals

4. Warnings

- If premises do not have adequate facilities, surveillance team members must not handle inadequately restrained animals.
- Properties should not be selected as suitable for vaccination unless animals are able to be adequately restrained to avoid injury to the animal and the operator.
- There may be active infection with FMD on any of the premises visited. Precautions must be taken to ensure that FMD is not transmitted by pre vaccination inspection teams and if infection is suspected the team will complete the visit as a surveillance team and be withdrawn from future visits. Entry and Exit procedures as prescribed in NASOP 1: *Personal decontamination—entry and exit procedure* should be strictly adhered to.
- Only persons authorised under jurisdiction legislation may conduct inspections of properties.
- Persons in charge of animals may be emotional and could become violent.

5. Description of activities

5.1 Selection of property to be vaccinated

- The Vaccination Manager will be tasked with selecting properties for FMD vaccination according to a set of criteria that will be supplied from the planning group.
- The vaccination criteria may include:
 - a complete area with all susceptible animals to be vaccinated
 - a complete area with only specified susceptible animals to be vaccinated
 - specified properties.
- The assessment team should collate information currently available on the property from sources such as BioSIRT. If previous surveillance visits have been conducted then it is unlikely additional information will need to be collected before scheduling a vaccination team.
- Contact the properties, confirm the current data and that property meets the vaccination criteria. Confirm the address and location and where necessary arrange a pre vaccination inspection to assess property and animal disease status.

5.2 Pre vaccination inspection

- Enter the premises in accordance with NASOP 01: *Personal decontamination—entry and exit procedure*.
- Ask the person in charge of the animals whether any signs of FMD have been observed and assess (see NASOP 45: *Conducting a field surveillance visit for Foot and Mouth Disease*) FMD susceptible animals on the property and ensure they have no clinical signs of FMD.
- Assess the yards and facilities to ensure they are adequate for the vaccination of animals.
- Complete property inspection and animal surveillance, premises inspection report (Appendix A). Accurate numbers of each susceptible species must be recorded.
- Where adequate handling facilities are not available, report in the checklist the need for proper arrangements. This must be rectified before the vaccination team is despatched.
- Provide the person in charge of the animals with standard information including advice on monitoring stock, vigilance of clinical signs of FMD and who to contact to report suspect signs of FMD and some indication of the likely timing of vaccination.
- In the event that a pre vaccination team suspects the presence of active FMD on any farm where vaccination is planned to be carried out, notify the operations centre that the property is suspect FMD and follow instructions. If FMD is suspected do not visit other properties.
- If FMD is suspected, also notify the Vaccination Manager who will suspend vaccination plans for the property until FMD status is resolved.
- An order to vaccinate and, if necessary, order to muster, order to provide adequate assistance and order to provide adequate facilities may be issued to the person in charge.
- Handle animals in accordance with animal welfare principles and OHS guidelines.
- Wherever possible, livestock handling should be the responsibility of the person in charge of the livestock.
- Gather and decontaminate all equipment. Handle all waste according to decontamination NASOP 01: *Personal decontamination—entry and exit procedure*.
- Leave the property in accordance with NASOP 01: *Personal decontamination—entry and exit procedure*.
- Information collected must be given to the Vaccination Manager with recommendations on resources required and estimated time to complete vaccination of property.
- All forms must be processed according to the operations centre information management requirements.

- Note: Identify neighbouring properties that may have susceptible animals that have been overlooked in the vaccination plan and advise the Vaccination manager.

6. References

- Operational Procedures Guidelines. Vaccination for Contagious Disease. (Draft). National Animal Health Emergency Management System Guidelines - U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2003
- Merial booklet 'Guidance for Foot and Mouth Disease vaccination'
- NASOP 01: *Personal decontamination—entry and exit procedure*
- NASOP 17: *Vaccinating livestock on a property for Foot and Mouth Disease*
- NASOP 45: *Conducting a field surveillance visit for Foot and Mouth Disease*
- NASOP 11: Conducting emergency animal disease samples for laboratory testing
- AUSVETPLAN Disease strategy Foot-and-Mouth Disease
 - AUSVETPLAN manuals are available at <http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au>

7. Appendices

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