



Resume Webinar 2 April

Focus on Foot-and-mouth Disease in Europe

In light of the alarming development in the spread of Foot-and-mouth Disease in Europe, the Danish Agriculture & Food Council has reached out to Danish Farmers Abroad, and hereby offers to provide more information about foot-and-mouth disease in general, and specifically about the situation in Slovakia and Hungary.

Veterinary Director Jens Munk Ebbesen and veterinarian, epidemiologist, Jan Dahl provided a status of the outbreak, preventive measures, including the Danish transport standards regulations

Two major outbreaks have been documented: one in Berlin in December 2024, limited to 14 water buffaloes without further spread, and a more extensive outbreak in Hungary and Slovakia from March 2025, where several large cattle and young animal herds were affected. Airborne transmission was considered, but is considered unlikely over longer distances.

Slovakia had challenges with infection detection and capacity for culling. Suppressive vaccination was used, but has limited effect in the first 8 days.

Transmission routes include direct contact, airborne spread (especially from pigs), and indirectly via feed, food, transport and humans. Virus can survive in unheated meat and unpasteurized dairy products for weeks.

In the event of an outbreak, immediate standstill, zones of 3 and 10 km, and extensive surveillance and restrictions on animal movements and products have been introduced. Control is implemented via culling, contact tracing and possibly vaccination.