



Wyoming Department of Health Wyoming Livestock Board



Procedures to Report a Suspected Foreign Animal Disease

If you suspect a *foreign animal disease (FAD)*, would you know what steps to take to obtain a diagnosis?

As a veterinarian or a rancher you are our first line of defense. To initiate a FAD investigation, the first step is recognizing that a disease situation could be the result of a foreign animal disease pathogen. The clinical signs and gross lesions associated with FAD may be very subtle and resemble many common disease conditions.

Descriptions and pictures of foreign animal diseases can be found at:

http://www.vet.uga.edu/vpp/gray_book/index.htm

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ep/fad_training/bibpage.htm

It is important that you obtain a complete and thorough history.

Be sure to ask about disease onset, recent foreign travel by employees or visitors, feed sources (i.e. garbage feeders), other species of animals also exhibiting similar or abnormal clinical signs, efficacy of prior treatments, recent animal movements (introduction and shipments), consumption of foreign foods by employees, etc. Answers to these and similar questions may increase your suspicion of FAD even in the absence of “abnormal” clinical signs and lesions.

Steps To Take

Now that you suspect a possible FAD, here are the steps you should take and the actions to expect:

1. Do not leave the ranch/farm unless absolutely necessary and then only after disinfection.
2. Contact the federal *Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC)* in your state or the State Veterinarian’s Office:
Area Veterinarian in Charge: (307) 772-2186 or (307) 630 - 8444
State Veterinarian: (307) 777-7515 or 1-877-WYO-STOCK
3. The AVIC will dispatch a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) to initiate an investigation within 24 hours of the initial notification.
4. The FADD will set up an appointment to visit the premises, assess the disease situation, collect and submit laboratory samples, execute disease control actions if necessary, and file a report with the AVIC.
5. The AVIC will assign a priority level to the laboratory submissions which will govern the response at the federal lab.
6. Further actions may be taken at the discretion of the AVIC in consultation with the FADD, State Veterinarian, and the USDA Emergency Programs staff.
7. Laboratory results will be reported to the AVIC who will notify the veterinarian and owner of the animal(s).

It is important that you contact the AVIC or State Veterinarian immediately if you suspect a FAD. Do NOT send any samples to any diagnostic lab yourself to avoid possible contamination of those labs which could result in further spread of the disease.