

Implementing Active Observational Surveillance (AOS) for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

June 2017



Active Observational Surveillance (AOS) is a systematic method for routinely monitoring livestock (cattle, pigs) for potential signs of early FMD infection during an outbreak. The Secure Beef Supply Plan includes AOS materials (coming soon) for educating Cattle Health Monitors on the recognition of early observations that may indicate early FMD virus infection. To implement AOS on a feedlot,

1. Become familiar with Active Observational Surveillance

Read “*Active Observational Surveillance (AOS) for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD): An Overview*,” only 4.5 pages

2. Designate Cattle Health Monitor(s)

The best Cattle Health Monitors are people who

- have had consistent involvement with cattle on the feedlot;
- are familiar with the health status of the livestock they are assigned to monitor; and
- observe cattle daily, document daily, and promptly report abnormal findings.

3. Prepare to Keep AOS Records

Cattle Health Monitors will need to document observations daily for each group of animals on the feedlot during an FMD outbreak. Being familiar with the types of AOS records needed will help with accurate completion. The information described in the documents and forms listed below may be included in existing on-farm recordkeeping systems or using the forms available on the SBS website: www.securebeef.org/.

All AOS records must be available upon request for inspection by Responsible Regulatory Officials managing the FMD outbreak. A complete AOS record should include:

- AOS Communication Plan
- Feedlot-Specific Expected Parameters and Investigation Triggers
- Cattle Health Monitor Training Documentation Form
- Herd/Group Daily Observation Form
- Abnormal Findings Explanation Form

4. Review AOS Educational Materials

It is in the feedlot’s best interest to ensure their designated Cattle Health Monitor(s) review and understand the educational materials so they know what to look for and how to record findings. The educational materials are available in English and Spanish on the SBS website: www.securebeef.org/. Reviewing the information described below, either individually or as a group, is expected to take about one hour.

- Handout: “FMD: What Beef Producers Need to Know” (1 page)
- Narrated PowerPoint lessons:
 - Recognizing Foot and Mouth Disease
 - Using Active Observational Surveillance on the Beef Feedlot
 - Using AOS Records on the Beef Feedlot
- Examination Checklist
- Sign: See Something, Say Something
- Foot and Mouth Disease Pocket Guide: Cattle
- Foot and Mouth Disease in Cattle: Progression of Lesions