

# Animal Disease

**Animal diseases which present the most concern are those which are highly contagious, cause high fatality rates amongst livestock or have the possibility of infecting humans.**

Within the planning work, the following diseases are considered: Foot and Mouth Disease, Bluetongue, Avian Influenza, Rabies, Classical Swine Fever, West Nile Virus and Newcastle Disease.

## HISTORY

There have been a number of significant animal disease outbreaks in the United Kingdom. Foot and Mouth Disease, Bluetongue and Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) are the most notable recent examples.

The Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2000 was one of the key factors which led to the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act, due to its huge impacts on the UK economy.

## IN SUSSEX

Any animal disease within Sussex would have a huge impact on the agricultural economy as well as the overall economy of the county.



### RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- Damage to local agricultural economy
- Mass cull / disposal of animal carcasses
- Loss of livelihoods for farmers and farm workers
- Health risks to farm workers.

### CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Long-term psychological health impacts experienced by farmers
- Increased food costs to consumers
- Knock-on effect on tourism and other service industries (e.g. catering)
- Unrecoverable damage to businesses.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Register any livestock which you own with Defra.
- If an outbreak is declared then follow any guidance from the government to protect your livestock and limit the spread.
- Vaccinate livestock where possible.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Production of multi-agency plans for managing animal disease outbreaks.
- Raising disease awareness amongst farmers and farm workers.