

**CHAPTER 23****RESTOCKING OF INFECTED PREMISES****INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes the timing and procedures for restocking of infected holdings following the completion of slaughter and Cleaning and Disinfection operations.

**CONTENTS**

1. When restocking can commence
  2. How restocking is to be carried out
  3. Clinical inspection after restocking
  4. Serological sampling
  5. Sentinel animals
- Annex 1 Policy discussion document on restocking of the Cooley Peninsula during FMD 2001

## 1. WHEN RESTOCKING CAN COMMENCE

- 1.1 Under Article 5 of Council Directive 85/511/EEC, restocking may not commence until at least **21 days** after completion of **final Cleaning & Disinfection** of the Infected Premises.
- 1.2 A restocking policy will be determined by the NDCC in conjunction with the National Expert Epidemiology Group, taking into account the species involved and local conditions. The policy discussion document for the restocking of the Cooley Peninsula in FMD, 2001 is included in the **Annex 1** below.

## 2. HOW RESTOCKING IS TO BE CARRIED OUT

- 2.1 Animals can only be introduced from areas that are not under restriction.
- 2.2 Animals must be **blood sampled** prior to restocking and be sero-negative for FMD.
- 2.3 Animals must be introduced into **all** units and buildings. If this is not possible, animals may be moved between units.
- 2.4 Introduction into different units/buildings may be at different times.
- 2.5 No animals may leave the holding until all units/buildings have completed all the restocking procedures.
- 2.6 Animals must be licenced onto the holding.

## 3. CLINICAL INSPECTION AFTER RESTOCKING

- 3.1 Animals must be clinically inspected:
  - every **3 days** for the first **2 weeks**
  - then **once a week** until 4 weeks after the last animals have been introduced.

## 4. SEROLOGICAL SAMPLING

- 4.1 **Four weeks** after the last animals have been introduced the following groups should be blood sampled:
- all epidemiological groups of sheep and goats (95/5)
  - any other groups of animals recommended by the Local Epidemiology Group.
- 4.2 If all clinical and serological results are negative, **Form C** may be served to lift restrictions.
- 4.3 If sero-conversion from a negative to a positive occurs, even in the absence of clinical disease, an outbreak must be declared, and the animals slaughtered and destroyed as set out in Chapter 14, **Controls following confirmation of disease** and Chapter 20, **Slaughter**.

## 5. SENTINEL ANIMALS

- 5.1 Sentinel animals should be used in high risk situations in which there is a greater risk of recrudescence of disease, such as:
- when early restocking is carried out after the minimum rest period
  - if the holding is difficult to clean and disinfect because buildings are old or animals are kept outside.
- 5.2 The same clinical and serological monitoring will apply to these animals as in sections 3 and 4 above.



## ANNEX 1

### POLICY DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Restocking Options for the Cooley area of Co. Louth  
FMD 2001

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that restocking of the Cooley area take place on a phased basis. This should be done on the basis of categorisation of the risk associated with various identified land areas. The highest risk areas should be left free of stock for the longest period. The restocking should be managed in a way, which will facilitate monitoring and testing of purchased animals if it is considered necessary. The management of this process can be best facilitated by individual herd-owner application to move susceptible animals onto the various fragments of his holdings.

### RISK CATEGORISATION

Four risk category groups identified:

1. All holdings in the ownership/control of the farmer related to the infected premises – see Appendix 1
2. Identified part holdings closely associated with the clinical disease at Broughattin and Proleek and those holdings on which sero- positive animals were identified - see Appendix 2
3. The commonages
4. Remainder of lowland holdings within the area

### RISK FACTORS

Among the remaining significant epidemiological issues identified are:

- a) The remaining wildlife on the hills/commonages and any wildlife carcasses that have not been recovered from the hills – *it was agreed that these would be culled using the army, with the help of local hunters.*
- b) The recorded survival time of the FMD virus in the environment –
  - Soil – ranging from 1 week in summer to 21 weeks in winter
  - Manure – ranging from 1 week in summer to 24 weeks in winter
- c) The need to complete an agreed programme of clinical examinations of all susceptible animals in the controlled area, with targeted serological testing – *the examinations and sampling has been completed since Monday 23 April – all results, which are negative, are now to hand.*

- d) The risk associated with slurry from specified holdings – it was agreed that the high risk holdings would be identified (1 & 2 above) and the slurry subjected to lime treatment.
- e) Cleansing and disinfection – it was agreed that the highest risk premises (1 & 2 above) would be identified and subjected to a preliminary disinfection protocol by DAFRD – unless previously subjected to a thorough cleansing and disinfection programme already. Additionally all other herdowners in the area would be served with a notice requiring them to cleanse and disinfect their premises.

## RESTOCKING MANAGEMENT

From the perspective of managing the restocking of the area, two strategies were identified:

### A The introduction of sentinel animals on to the highest risk areas as soon as possible.

#### Advantages:

This method may identify a residual source of infection at an early stage, in advance of the return of large numbers of animals to the area, thus minimising the exposure to the cost of another large-scale cull and the wider economic costs.

#### Disadvantages:

There are significant management and time issues associated with such a process – the sentinel scenario has essentially been designed for housing situations and there are very limited ‘housing/collection’ facilities on either of the highest risk farms. There are issues such as

- sourcing, ownership and pre-entry testing of animals,
- the need to physically confine the animals to identified high risk areas of each field – questions of fencing and water availability arise,
- the overall time required for the process – likely to take at least 8 weeks from initial identification of sheep to final test results
- a need to clinically examine all the animals on a daily basis, with routine sequential serological sampling.
- compensation for the large number of herdowners in the entire area for loss of potential earnings, as they would not be allowed to restock whilst the exercise is carried out.
- The early introduction of animals may identify another disease outbreak, with resultant costs associated with it.

Appendix 3 sets out a work protocol for this option.

- B Maintaining the highest risk land parcels/holdings/fragments free from susceptible animals for a determined period of time under a controlled management regime – i.e. requiring the harvesting of a crop of hay/silage or perhaps a setaside option, before allowing animals re-graze the fields at some time later in the autumn.**

**Advantages:**

This strategy

- requires less direct management and intervention by DAF – easier to enforce
- would allow the restocking of the lower risk areas of the peninsula proceed at an earlier time.
- has potentially a lesser compensation exposure in that the numbers of holdings, which would be subject to extended restrictions, would be less – Category 4 herds would generally be allowed to restock in advance of completion of this exercise.
- is less likely to result in a further disease incident.

**Disadvantages:**

- if a problem is subsequently identified, there is a greater exposure to costs of another cull of the area.
- the need to effectively secure the identified lands - this will require the maintenance/repair of fencing etc.

## GENERAL POINTS OF RECOMMENDATION

1. Restocking Management option B above gained greatest favour among the review group.
2. Category 4 areas could be restocked in the first instance in a controlled way from 1 June subject to a satisfactory cleansing and disinfection programme and individual herd-owner application to the DVO seeking permission to restock specific fragments – preferably not in advance of the introduction of the sheep identification requirements.
3. Restocking of category 1 & 2 premises could take place in a controlled way from 15 August and after the harvesting of a hay/silage crop or setaside option.
4. Restocking of category 3 areas above, the commonages, should not take place in advance of August 1 and at least 45 days should have elapsed from the removal of the last of the wild goat or deer that has shown antibody titres.
5. The legislative designation of the controlled area has been removed and has been replaced by the Foot and Mouth (Restriction on Movement) (No.5) Order 2001. This provides a legislative framework to support continuing controls in the designated areas/holdings, to ensure compliance with the agreed restocking arrangements.
6. All restocking should be on the basis of prior application to DAF, identifying the origin of the proposed purchases in order to facilitate any testing deemed necessary.
7. Consideration to restocking the area with Scrapie resistant sheep may have merit, however unless the herdowners can anticipate a real gain from the effort required, it is unlikely to be successful.