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Thursday, November 02, 2006

TO: Utah Dairy, Cattle, Pork, Goat and Sheep Producers

SUBJECT: UC Davis Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Study Model

REQUEST: Please distribute this to all members of your organization

Dr. Earl Rogers, Acting State Veterinarian, attended the FMD Summit sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association this month. A FMD model that the Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance (CADMS) (School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis) is working on was discussed. In this day and age of "bird flu" concern, it is important that we not lose sight of other very serious diseases that could bring our economy to a "halt" and have devastating repercussions for agriculture. We have known for a long time that FMD is the most dangerous disease, economically, to agriculture as this is the most contagious disease known on earth.

Information that could be vital to planning efforts in case of a FMD outbreak will be gathered with this model. This information can then be used to better plan for an appropriate response. The better we understand how a FMD outbreak would affect the United States, the more effective we will be in plans to prevent or respond to a disease outbreak. The information gathered would also be useful for other disease models.

The success and accuracy of this FMD model will be dependent on industry participation in a nationwide anonymous survey that CADMS has developed. UDAF has been contacted by CADMS asking for our support. We encourage all producers to participate in this survey which can be found at <http://www.cadms.ucdavis.edu>. The survey is short and simple to complete. If you would like to see data that has been accumulated to date, go to: <http://survey.euro.confirmit.com/confirm/reportal/Wysiwyg/ViewMode.aspx?ReportId=0b38a39a-6ff6-4f12-afcb-efa9dbd09d21&sid=2509C97C366CC7B90BFDBA3B2EF4D61F>

If you have any question, please call Dr. Earl Rogers at 801-538-7162 or Dr. Warren Hess at 801-538-4910.