

FMD Outbreak – Japan & South Korea The Ugly Details !

Montana & Idaho Consider Increasing 2010 Wolf Hunting Season Quotas

MN Wolf Lawsuit Update

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Minnesota cattlemen that attended the MSCA Annual Convention in 2008 and sat through Dr. Steven Van Wie's presentation on the 2001 FMD outbreak in England likely have a very clear picture in their head as to the ugly details of what is happening to fellow farmers in Japan and Korea today.

At this point the FMD outbreaks in Japan or Korea have not reached the devastating scale of the 2001 outbreak in England. However, make no mistake the stench of the "killing fields" abounds in both countries. It's too early to know how many animals will have to be destroyed before it's over. Also as in England, it will take years for farmers and their communities to recover from the harsh financial consequences and emotional destruction that occurs when FMD comes calling.

Winter of 2009-10 - Mainland Asia: World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) tracks several outbreaks of FMD virus (serotype-O) in swine and cattle on the mainland of central and east Asia.

January 2010 Korea: FMD outbreak occurs in Pocheon, Gyeonggi and was likely caused by a foreign worker from a Northeast Asia, believed to be either from China or Mongolia. The immigrant worker was hired by a local farm and received a package containing clothes and shoes, believed to be contaminated with the FMD virus, sent from his homeland.

About 6,000 animals on 55 farms in the Pocheon area are slaughtered. The government officially declares the outbreak over in March. The cost to the government for this small FMD outbreak was 42.5 billion won (\$37.9 million US Dollars).

April 2010 – Korea: South Korean officials confirm outbreaks of FMD on Ganghwa Island and again on the mainland of Korea west of Seoul. Officials believe this outbreak was likely caused by a local farmer on Ganghwa Island returning from a trip, believed to be to China. His livestock farm was the initial site of the new outbreak.

Agriculture authorities indicated that the owner of the farm traveled to China the previous month, returned home and reentered his farm with no sanitization procedures.

FMD is confirmed in cattle at a farm in Chungju, 147 kilometers south of Seoul. Local authorities in Chungju began culling over 12,000 animals at the infected farm and four nearby farms.

May 2010 – Korea: Authorities have culled over 30,000 animals at more than 225 farms on Ganghwa Island in an effort to limit the spread of the FMD virus (serotype-O).

The virus is suspected of having moved not only to the neighboring city of Gimpo but also the interior areas of Cheongyang & North Chungcheong Provinces. The FMD virus is believed to have been spread through animal feed, insemination technicians and local farmers' meetings.

Late April 2010 – Japan: FMD virus (serotype-O) is detected at a farm on the west coast of Japan's Kyushu Island. The outbreak is in Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan's famed "Wagyu" cattle country and also a large swine producing area.

Seedstock producers are forced to cull prize breeding bulls and cows. With the seedstock cattle go irreplaceable herd genetics that have taken generations to create. Swine operations are depopulated.

May 2010 – Japan: The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture initiates a large scale emergency action plan to arrest the FMD outbreak in Miyazaki Prefecture. Quarantine, vaccinate and then slaughter all swine and cattle within a radius of 10 kilometers of any infected farm.

Animals are vaccinated immediately as a measure to slow the spread of the FMD infection. Farms are under quarantined until the slaughter has been completed, carcasses disposed of and the premises disinfected. The slaughter and sanitization will take weeks.

The plan will remove about 200,000 head of livestock - 155,000 pigs and 50,000 cows. The animals earmarked for slaughter are roughly 17 per cent of the entire prefecture's populations of swine and cattle.

Additional Impacts: Japan & Korea have suspended all export of pork and beef.

Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama anticipates the cost to the government to quell the outbreak and aid farmers will be over 100 billion yen (\$1.08 billion US dollars).

One of Japan's most prized stud bulls is infected with FMD. The discovery was a devastating blow to the Prefecture of Miyazaki, which evacuated the region's 6 top seedstock bulls, including the affected animal, to a special bio-security facility to isolate them from FMD.

South Korea's Livestock and Veterinary Science Institute is infected with FMD. The center culls 1,549 high value beef cattle and swine that were being used for research and breeding purposes.

Today: Japanese & Korean authorities are working to contain the outbreak.

Do you know what FMD symptoms look like? Do you have a bio-security plan? Are you familiar with Minnesota's FMD Emergency Action Plan? Visit: www.bah.state.mn.us/diseases/fmd/index.html for the details. For more info contact the MBAH @ (651) 296-2942 or your veterinarian.

Montana and Idaho are evaluating whether they will increase the 2010 wolf hunting season quotas. After their wolves were delisted, both states conducted successful wolf big game hunting seasons. Also allowing trapping, electronic calls, an archery season and baiting will be considered to increase the odds of successful hunting seasons.

Last year in Montana's hunt, 72 wolves were killed; the season quota was 75. Consideration is being given to upping the quota to between 186 and 216 wolves for the 2010 fall hunting season. Idaho's first wolf hunt ended this past March. 185 wolves were taken, short of the quota of 220. Idaho biologists credited the hunt with stabilizing a species that had been growing at a rate of 20 percent annually.

Montana's Chief of Wildlife Ken McDonald indicated that changes will target wolves in areas where they are menacing livestock and have successfully eluded hunters. "We've learned a lot over the past year," McDonald said. "It's our responsibility to address the fact that more than 200 sheep and about 100 head of cattle were killed by wolves last year and that wolves have depressed deer and elk populations in some areas." There were at least 525 wolves in Montana last year. The number across the Northern Rockies - 1,706 - is still growing, though at a slower rate than in past years.

Jim Unsworth, Idaho Fish and Game Deputy Director has said Idaho's objective is to lower their population to about 520 wolves, a number in line with the state's management goals. In 2009, Idaho had about 843 wolves. Idaho is also considering allowing hunters to obtain more than one wolf hunting permit, especially in some zones where wolves are negatively impacting elk herds.

Wolf advocates - including the Sierra Club, Earthjustice, and Defenders of Wildlife continue to press a federal lawsuit to block the Idaho and Montana wolf hunting seasons. The next hearing is June 15 before U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy in Missoula, MT. These groups have vowed to do everything in their power to stop the hunts and restore federal protection for the wolf.

In January Dale Lueck and Gerald Tyler filed a 60-day notice with the federal government for failing to delist the wolves.

Receiving no response, in April Lueck & Tyler filed a 31 page complaint in the Federal District Court of Minnesota in Duluth.

The complaint restates the claims in the 60-day notice & asks the court for relief. Lueck & Tyler specifically are asking for a judgment compelling the re-issue of a final rule delisting the species pursuant to ESA and APA statutory law.

In response the US Justice Department assigned Friedrich Siekert as "Lead Attorney" for the federal government. Attorney Michael Eitel was also assigned to represent the US government in this case.

Mr. Siekert is a senior federal attorney based in the US Attorney's Office in Minneapolis. Mr. Eitel is an experienced trial attorney and ESA specialist. He is based in Denver CO.

The federal government has until mid June to respond as to why they are not in violation of the ESA for failing to delist a recovered species, the wolf.

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Wolves Have Recovered - Help Us Get Them Delisted

The timber wolf has fully recovered in the Midwest and no longer qualifies for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. The federal government is in violation of the law. Their failure to obey the law continues to cause economic damage to livestock and pet owners through out the Midwest. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Wolf Recovery Plan for the Midwest states:

"The Fish & Wildlife Service considers that the eastern timber wolf will be "recovered" and removed from the Federal list of threatened and endangered plants and animals when the survival of the wolf in Minnesota is assured, and at least one viable population outside of Minnesota and Isle Royale in the contiguous 48 states is re-established."

The Wolf Recovery Plan specifies Minnesota requires about 1,400 or more wolves to meet the survivable population test. A combined wolf population of about 100 wolves or more is needed in Wisconsin and Michigan to meet the requirement of a second separate viable wolf population.

The required wolf population levels and state management rules were attained long ago. Today there are between 3,000 & 3,500 wolves in Minnesota and about 1,200 collectively in Wisconsin and Michigan. That is roughly 3 times the amount of wolves required for delisting.

Dale Lueck (218) 927-2495 of Aitkin, MN (dklueck@embarqmail.com) and Gerald Tyler (218) 265-9953 of Ely, MN are suing the US Fish and Wildlife Service seeking a court order requiring them to comply with the Endangered Species Act, which requires that a recovered species must be delisted. Lueck & Tyler need your help to see this effort through to a successful conclusion.

Wolf Delisting Legal Fund

The Wolf Delisting Legal Fund is a non-profit corporation registered with the Minnesota of Secretary of State. The organization was founded by Lueck and Tyler. The Fund's sole purpose is to provide the financial support required to get the wolves delisted in Minnesota.

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Mail to: **Wolf Delisting Legal Fund**
37489 295th Street, Aitkin, MN 56431

Complete & return this form with your donation

The Wolf Delisting Legal Fund is a non-profit corporation registered in Minnesota. Donations will be used to pay legal fees, expert witness fees and other expenses necessary to bring action in the federal court to remove wolves from federal protection and allow their management to revert back to the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin & Michigan. Please provide the following information. This information will be kept confidential.

Name _____ and/or Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donation Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other Amount _____

Make checks payable to: "Wolf Delisting Legal Fund"

Thank you for helping delist the wolves!