

Observations of a small scale hill farmer affected by FMD restrictions

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Introduction

- Exotic disease costs both financially and emotionally
- Remote uninclusive policy decisions alienate the rural farming community
- Communication is the most important factor in creating a cohesive effort to combat disease



Communication strategy

- Better flow of information on restrictions
- Proper controls at ports and airports
- Easy access and easily understood information

Effects on rural communities

- Farmers and their communities
- Health and welfare of Man and Animals
- Sustainability

Environmental impact

- Stewardship
- Support levels
- Trade restriction

Food sources

- Local
- Sustainable
- Secure
- Safe

Conclusions

- Reducing farm numbers will continue and probably increase
- Important to maintain rural infrastructure to meet increasing requirements for leisure and life-style
- Fresh, wholesome, healthy food is still the major reason for farming livestock
- THE FUTURE DEMANDS CLEAR, CONCISE, AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS ON DISEASE, BASED ON PROPER RESEARCH AND ON VETERINARY KNOWLEDGE RATHER THAN POLITICAL REQUIREMENT