

Veterinary Ireland Press Releases

22 March, 2001

VETERINARY /FARMING FORUM CONVENED.

Veterinary Ireland, the organisation for the Irish veterinary profession has expressed its disappointment at the confirmation of the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak in Co. Louth.

"This has occurred despite a massive effort by everyone involved" according to Paschal Gibbons, President of Veterinary Ireland. "Rather than being defeatist about what is after all a secondary outbreak within an existing exclusion zone, we should re-double our efforts to ensure that the disease is contained to the greatest possible extent", he said.

"The Expert Group set up to advise the Minister is meeting today and the EU Standing Veterinary Committee is meeting tomorrow. Veterinary Ireland is then convening a meeting of the Veterinary/Farming Forum to consider the practical implications of the measures which will emerge from these meetings", according to Mr. Gibbons.

The Veterinary/Farming Forum involves key officers from Veterinary Ireland, ICMSA, ICOSA, IFA, Macra naFeirme and ICOS. It is anticipated that the Expert Group and officials from the National Disease Control Centre at the Department of Agriculture will also attend the Forum meeting, which will be held at Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin on Monday, 26 March 2001.

"Vets and farmers have already been working closely to deal with the many difficulties that the crisis has created in recent weeks. The primary purpose of the Forum will be to develop further co-ordinated practical responses to be undertaken by vets and farmers at ground level, to support and reinforce the actions being taken by the Government at a national level", concluded Mr. Gibbons.

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