The Colorado Department of Agriculture is urging European travelers and Colorado veterinarians to take precautions to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease.

Although the U.S. has had no confirmed cases of the disease since 1929, it’s important for the public to be aware of the possible dangers, especially with the current situation in Europe.

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a viral ailment that causes physical damage, sometimes resulting in death. It can be spread in many ways, ranging from wind currents to clothing. All cloven-hoofed animals, such as cattle, sheep, swine, deer and bison, are susceptible. Horses are not susceptible to the disease.

FMD is easily transmissible and would be devastating to our livestock industry,” says Colorado Assistant State Veterinarian Ron Ackerman. "We want people to take precautions to ensure the safety of the animals in Colorado.”

The precautions published by the State Veterinarian are enclosed in this issue. Please post them in your dairy.