

FACT SHEET

Lumpy Skin Disease



WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- Incubation period is 4-14 days post infection.
- There will initially be a period of high fever (41 deg C) and swollen lymph glands.
- Large, firm nodules will then develop up to 5cm in diameter in the skin particularly on the head, neck, udder, scrotum, and perineum.
- The nodules may ulcerate leading to increased risk of flystrike.
- Other symptoms include depression, anorexia, rhinitis, conjunctivitis, and excess salivation.

WHAT IS LUMPY SKIN?

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is a devastating disease of cattle and buffalo caused by the Capripox virus, closely related to sheep and goat pox. It has relatively low mortality but high morbidity meaning that cattle infected can have significant production losses and welfare issues. There is no evidence that LSD can be transmitted to humans.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION

There have been no cases of LSD recorded in Australia, but it is spreading rapidly internationally. Since 2012, LSD has spread from Africa and the Middle East into South-eastern Europe. LSD was reported for the first time in South and East Asia in 2019. The most recent outbreaks were reported in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Laos in 2021. In March 2022 Indonesia officially reported the virus on the island of Sumatra and there is concern that it will spread to Australia.

TRANSMISSION AND SPREAD

The virus is believed to be transmitted between cattle by a range of arthropods including biting insects and ticks. Direct contact, contaminated feed and fomites are also believed to spread the disease but are less likely.

DIAGNOSIS

Other diseases of cattle may look like LSD so it is important to get a proper diagnosis. Samples can be submitted to a laboratory for testing when clinical signs first develop. Samples to collect include:

- ▶ Serum
- ▶ EDTA blood (7-10ml per animal)
- ▶ Fresh tissue
- ▶ Fixed tissue (in formalin)



Image provided by Agriculture Victoria

CONTROL

In the event of an outbreak in Australia, our policy is to eradicate the disease in the shortest time possible by stamping out. Early detection is critical. Losing our LSD free status would have significant live export and trade implications for the cattle industry. Control methods would include control of insect vectors, tracing, and surveillance, culling of infected animals, sanitary disposal of carcasses, movement controls and quarantine, decontamination of surfaces and equipment and public awareness campaigns.

There is currently no LSD vaccine approved for use in Australia, but they are commercially available overseas. Refer to the AUSVETPLAN Lumpy Skin Disease manual for a more comprehensive explanation of Australia's prevention and response policy.

PREVENTION

Australia has strict biosecurity procedures and policies at its borders and is working with Indonesia and neighboring countries to control their outbreaks. Products that arrive into Australia are already managed to acceptable levels, for example, strict regulations are in place for importing cattle skin and hides.

TREATMENT

There is no effective treatment for LSD. Treatment of secondary infections and supportive care may be necessary. Therefore, prevention is of utmost importance.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AS A PRODUCER

The best way for producers to assist veterinarians and officials in ensuring Australia remains free from LSD, is to be aware of and recognise the clinical signs of LSD. Report suspected cases immediately to your veterinarian, relevant state department or the Disease Hotline.

Subsidies for having a veterinarian undertake a Significant Disease Investigation on your property or for sample collection and submission from cases where it is appropriate to consider LSD as a potential differential diagnosis are available.

See <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/significant-disease-investigation-sdi-program> for more information.

For more information, please contact Stock Sense at stocksense@vff.org.au

TAKE HOME MESSAGES:

- ▶ If you suspect LSD in your cattle herd immediately report it to The Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888 or to your state or territory Chief Veterinary Officer.
- ▶ There is a risk of LSD entering Australia and it is important to remain alert to potential exotic disease incursions as early detection is critical for an effective response.

FURTHER LINKS

Queensland Government Pest and Disease Disorders

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/pests-diseases-disorders/lumpy-skin-disease>

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

<https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/ead-bulletin/ead-bulletin-no-121>

Agriculture Victoria

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/beef-and-dairy-cattle/lumpy-skin-disease>

World Animal Health Organisation

<https://rr-asia.oie.int/en/projects/lumpy-skin-disease-lsd/>

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