

21 October 2002

BVA President comments to BBC Radio 4's Farming Today

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Farming Today* programme on Friday 18 October, Peter Jinman, the President of the British Veterinary Association said that "the current restrictions on moving livestock were actually undermining animal safety because farmers couldn't comply with them".

According to the programme "reports of farmers flouting the 20 day standstill rule for livestock, haven't surprised most in the industry. The ruling was implemented following the advice of scientists, and relates to the incubation period for foot and mouth disease. Peter Davies, the area Secretary of the Farmers Union of Wales in Camarthen, says such flagrant rule-breaking is happening because farmers have no choice - its that or losing their income.

"The government is currently undertaking a risk assessment of the likelihood for the return of foot and mouth disease...and it's due to release the results soon. Peter Jinman, President of the British Veterinary Association believes the only way forward is to have a national disease alert system and a variable standstill rule which matches the risk."

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Notes for Editors

1. For further information please contact the BVA Press Office on 020 7636 6541.