The following diseases are not currently in the U.S. but represent a major threat to our beef cattle industry. Some of these diseases may even pose a threat to humans and other species. In the event that any of these diseases are diagnosed on any farm in the U.S., whole herds may have to be destroyed resulting in major financial losses. A brief description of the key symptoms, how the disease is spread and steps that should be followed to prevent further spread, is presented below.

Using effective biosecurity practices will help prevent the introduction of these diseases! See SSERT-201 “Farm Level Biosecurity Practices for Small Beef Cattle Producers.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Key Signs</th>
<th>How it is Spread</th>
<th>What you Should Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)</td>
<td>Blisters on the mouth, teats and hooves; fever; excessive salivation, “drooling”</td>
<td>Direct contact with body fluids from infected animals (blood, pus and saliva); indirect contact (clothing, animal products, rodents and birds, contaminated water and feed, and coughing/sneezing)</td>
<td>Isolate sick animals; immediately contact your local veterinarian, Extension agent or State Veterinarian</td>
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<td><strong>Rinderpest (cattle plague) RP:</strong> (cattle plague, RP)</td>
<td>Constipation then very watery diarrhea; animals stop eating; dehydration; depression</td>
<td>Direct contact with bodily fluids from infected animals (mucus, nasal and eye secretions); feces; contaminated water</td>
<td>Isolate sick animals; immediately contact your local veterinarian and Extension agent</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)</strong> (BSE, aka mad cow disease)</td>
<td>Change in animal behavior (nervousness, aggression); staggering; kicking; fearful; difficulty rising</td>
<td>Eating feed containing ruminant animal products (brain, spinal cord, blood and bone meal)</td>
<td>Immediately contact your local veterinarian and Extension agent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rift Valley Fever (RVF)</td>
<td>High occurrence of death in newborns and abortions</td>
<td>Mosquitoes, ticks, and midges (small two-winged insects)</td>
<td>Immediately contact your local veterinarian and Extension agent</td>
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<td>Photograph complements of the The Center for Food Security &amp; Public Health, Iowa State University</td>
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<td>Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (lung plague) CBP: (lung plague, CBP)</td>
<td>High fever; dry coughing; difficulty breathing; extended neck and arched back to assist with breathing</td>
<td>Close contact with infected animals</td>
<td>Isolate sick animals; immediately contact your local veterinarian and Extension agent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis (TB)</td>
<td>Generally no symptoms but may notice cough; poorly doing animals; rough hair coat</td>
<td>Direct contact with sick animals in crowded or confined spaces</td>
<td>Isolate sickly animals; immediately contact your local veterinarian and Extension agent; contact your personal doctor</td>
</tr>
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## Disease Management

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<td><strong>Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)</strong></td>
<td>Numerous visible lumps; excessive salivation; animals get off feed; lameness</td>
<td>Mosquito and flies; rarely direct contact</td>
<td>Immediately contact your local veterinarian and Extension agent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photograph complements of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

### References:

- Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases, Foreign Animal Diseases, United States Animal Health Association
  

- Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching and Research Center, University of California, Tulare, CA
  
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Commonwealth of Australia
  
  
- Paratuberculosis Awareness and Research Association (PARA)
  
- Prof. Dr. Ahmed Abdou Ali El-Sawalhy, Higher Education Enhancement Project Fund (HEEPF) - Ministry of Higher Education - Arab Republic of Egypt
  
- The Center for Food Security & Public Health, Iowa State University