

Keeping Exotic Diseases Out!!

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Exotic Animal Diseases or Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) are transmissible diseases that cause devastating impacts on livestock production and food security through their rapid spread, particularly in naïve animal populations. Examples of major TADs include Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot and Mouth Disease, Hog Cholera and African Swine Fever.



Jamaica's livestock production is once again revitalizing through its expanding poultry, swine, small ruminant, and re-emerging dairy industries. These industries provide jobs, ensure the availability and quality of animal protein, and can generate well-needed revenue through access to export markets. The entry of TADs puts our local livestock production at risk, and negatively impacts on the local availability of animal protein, public health and the economy, limiting our availability to trade our meat and value added meat-based products, including our branded Jamaican patties and jerk pork.

Jamaica has a well established National Quarantine System which contributes to the reduced incidence of disease entry, through Live Animal Quarantine and the issuance of Veterinary Import Permits. This provides importers with internationally recognised import standards which limit disease entry from the importation of



The head office of the Veterinary Services Division

animal and animal-based products for domestic and commercial use. However, quarantine is NOT an absolute barrier. This was demonstrated in the neighbouring island of Cuba where African Swine Fever was first introduced through the entry of infected pork products

originating from Spain. It is important that all travellers declare ALL meat and poultry products when entering the country, including cured and salted meats as some diseases are able to survive these processes.

Jamaica is essentially free and has not reported for more than 75 years any case of a major TAD and it is important for us to keep it that way. Keep exotic diseases OUT!!

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