

FACT SHEET

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE (LSD)



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.

IF YOU SUSPECT LSD IN YOUR HERD:

Immediately report it to The Emergency Animal Disease Watch on

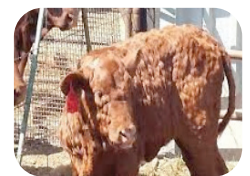
1800 675 888 & your Vet

WHAT IS LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is a devastating and highly infectious cattle and buffalo disease caused by the capripox virus. The disease has never been recorded in Australia, but is spreading rapidly internationally. Since 2012 LSD has spread from Africa to Europe and 2019 it was reported in Asia and the Pacific region. Indonesia reported confirmed cases in early 2022.

HOW IS IT SPREAD

The disease is caused by a virus that is transmitted by biting insects, such as mosquitos, flies and ticks. The disease is similar to sheep pox and goat pox. It is believed that arthropods, direct contact, contaminated feed and water and iatrogenic means (for example, repeated use of needles on different animals) can all spread the disease. The virus is present in high concentrations in the skin nodules and scabs on affected animals and can be isolated from blood, saliva, ocular and nasal discharges and semen.



IDENTIFICATION

Firm, raised nodules up to 50mm in diameter developed on the skin around the head, neck, genitals and limbs. Scabs develop in the centre of the nodules after which the resultant scabs ('sitfasts') fall off leaving large holes that can become infected. Swelling of the limbs, brisket and genitals may also occur. LSD virus can persist in scabs for up to four months after initial infection.

LSD virus can be found in blood for up to 21 days post-infection but shedding in semen may continue for at least 42 days post-infection.

TREATMENT

LSD is caused by a virus which means that there is no specific treatment. Control of LSD must focus on prevention, including vaccination. Treatment of secondary infections and supportive care may be necessary. Therefore, prevention is of the utmost importance.

HOW EASILY COULD LSD BE INTRODUCED?

Introduction of the disease from insects entering Australia on aircraft or ships represents a relatively low risk because LSD has a short survival time in insects. The numbers of vectors entering Australia in this way would be low.

BE PROACTIVE

The best defence for producers on the frontline is proactive prevention: all livestock owners should have stringent biosecurity measures in place on their property, including accurate records of livestock movement. Take the time now to implement or update an existing farm biosecurity plan.



Templates for a farm biosecurity plan can be downloaded via the following <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit>. Here you will find many other useful resources. You should also ensure you have biosecurity gate signs in place around your property, contact TFGA to get your FREE biosecurity fence sign.

WHO TO CALL

If you suspect the presence of this disease in any species of animal, you must report it to:

- Your Vet
- Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 and
- Biosecurity Tasmania on (03) 6165 3777

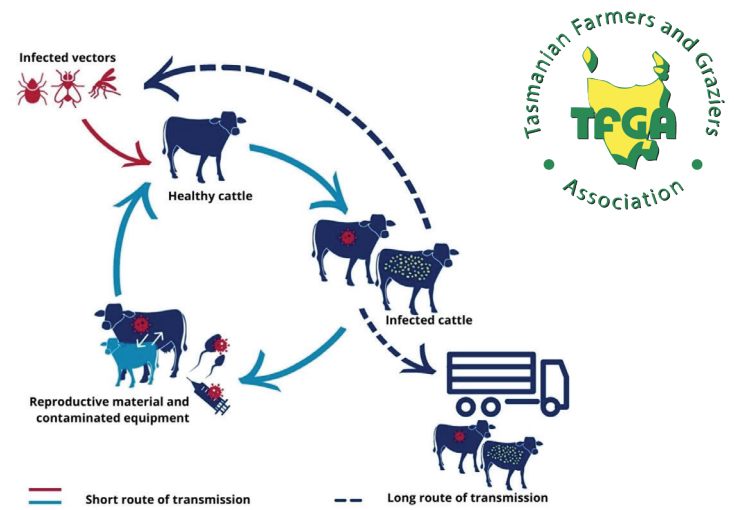


Figure 1. Viral pathway of lumpy skin disease

Figure from NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

FURTHER INFORMATION (scan the QR code or click the link)



TFGA - Biosecurity Lumpy Skin Disease
<https://tfga.com.au/biosecurity-lumpy-skin-disease>



Dept of Natural Resources and Environment Tas
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/cattle/lumpy-skin-disease>



LSD - Animal Health Australia
<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/lumpy-skin-disease/>



LSD - Dept Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/lumpy-skin-disease>



LSD - Farm Biosecurity
<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/lumpy-skin-disease/>

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Review your on-farm biosecurity plan.
- Be aware of the signs of LSD.
- Adhere to all livestock traceability requirements.
- Monitor who is coming onto your farm – ensure that any visitors who have recently travelled overseas take the appropriate steps to minimise the risk of transmission through contaminated clothing or shoes.
- If livestock exhibit any unusual signs consistent with LSD, report urgently to a local veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 or your vet.

LSD is a notifiable disease, meaning, if you suspect your livestock are infected with LSD you are legally obliged to report it. Early detection is essential.