

JobAid

Lumpy skin disease (LSD)

Clinical signs in cattle



Signs

Can vary from inapparent, mild to severe, depending on the breed, age and host immunity.

The incubation period

Can vary from 1-5 weeks. Infection is usually transmitted by biting vectors, and in this case clinical signs take more than 30 days to develop. Suckling calves may be infected via ingestion of their mother's milk or skin lesions on the teats.

Early (podromal) stage

Animals may begin to show signs of illness before the appearance of characteristic lumpy skin disease lesions. One of the first signs is swelling of superficial lymph nodes (subscapular, precrural, subparotid). Nasal and ocular discharge may also be present.

Other signs which develop during the initial stages of the disease include:

- Depression.
- Fever.
- Reluctance to move.
- Reduced appetite.
- Sudden reduction in daily milk production (up to 100%).

Clinical stage lesions

- **Skin** lesions begin to appear 48 hours after the onset of fever and are often located around the head, neck, udder, limbs, perineum and genitalia.
- **Mouth and nasal** lesions may also be present and result in salivation and nasal discharge. These excretions are infectious.
- **Genital** lesions in females are typically found within the vulva. Abortion has been observed in pregnant cows and fertility may be reduced. Males may develop orchitis resulting in temporary or permanent sterility.
- **Internal** lesions can be found on the mucous membranes of internal organs such as the mouth, larynx, trachea, oesophagus and abomasum. In severe cases, lesions in the respiratory tract can lead to pneumonia.
- **Ocular** lesions can develop in the cornea creating ulcers which can lead to blindness in severe cases. These lesions are painful.

fao.org/eufmd

eufmdlearning.works

[EuFMD activities and tools](#)

eufmd@fao.org

Move FAST

Foot-and-mouth And Similar
Transboundary animal diseases



Some rights reserved. This work is available
under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO license



Sustainable Development Goals, UN-SDGs.
EuFMD's programme focus



Funded by
the European Union