

9 November 2005

Memorandum Circular No. 05
Series of 2005

**Subject: Guidelines for Local Declaration of FMD-free Areas with
Vaccination and Maintenance of the Status thereof**

In view of the international recognition of Mindanao, Visayas, Palawan and Masbate as FMD Free Zones without vaccination by the OIE in 2001 and 2002 respectively, there is a need that a similar status must be achieved by Luzon in order to free the entire country from the disease.

As the final phase of FMD Eradication Program of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) through the National FMD Task Force has made tremendous impact with the local declaration of Regions II, IV-B and V as FMD free zones without vaccination on June 2004, there is a need to create guidelines on the further expansion of areas with no reported outbreak for considerable period of time as part of the strategy of progressive zoning approach.

The progressive zoning approach being a strategy to further isolate the foci of infection with expansion of disease free areas while protecting the same from re-introduction of the disease, and preparing most parts if not the entire Luzon for local declaration as a preparation to application to OIE for a free status with vaccination following the guidelines stated in the OIE's Animal Health Code.

The following guidelines are hereby prescribed:

A. Locally Declared FMD-free zone with vaccination

A locally declared FMD-free zone where vaccination is practiced can be established within a Region of which parts are still infected. Such area must be separated from the rest of the region and if relevant, from nearby infected provinces by a surveillance zone, or physical or geographical barriers, and animal health measures that effectively prevent disease incursion must be implemented. A region or province to qualify for local declaration with vaccination must:

1. have a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting
2. send a declaration to the National FMD Task Force that it wishes to establish an FMD free zone where vaccination is practiced, where there has been no outbreak of FMD for the past *12 months* and no FMDV circulation for the past *6 months*, with documented evidence that surveillance for FMD and FMDV circulation is in operation;
3. describe in detail :
 - a) regulatory measures for the prevention and control of both FMD and FMDV circulation,