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RABIES IN BULGARIA

Translation of the text of a telex received on 17 January 1992 from Dr R.B. MINEV, Chairman, State Veterinary Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Sofia:

S. R. - 1

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory (immunofluorescence test).

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 7 November 1991.

Estimated date of first infection: 25 September 1991.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: three (3).

Geographical identification of the outbreaks: Vratsa district:

1. Radovene village, Roman municipality
2. Lesskovec village, Orechovo municipality
3. Dobrolevo village, Dobrolevo municipality.

Details concerning the outbreaks:

No.	Species	No. of animals in the outbreaks	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. of animals destroyed	No. of animals slaughtered
1	fau *	...	1	0	1	0
2	fau *	...	1	0	1	0
3	fau *	...	2	0	2	0

* fau = fox

Control measures taken to date: fox hunting in the forests surrounding the affected villages; collection of samples from the animals killed, and destruction of their bodies.

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN THE NETHERLANDS
Lifting of the control measures

Text of a fax received on 20 January 1992 from Dr C.C.J.M. van der MEIJS, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, The Hague:

S.R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 3 January 1992.

Final date of this report period: 20 January 1992.

Estimated date of first infection: unspecified.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: one (1).

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Nijmegen region, Gelderland province, at 51° 53' N - 5° 38' E (see *Disease Information*, 5 [2], 4).

Comments concerning diagnosis: ICPI (Intra Cerebral Pathogenicity Index) test was used at the Central Veterinary Institute.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: origine of infection unknown.

Control measures modified during report period: lifting of the control measures on 16 January 1992 at midnight.

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FOWL PLAGUE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Text of a telex received on 21 January 1992 from Dr K.C. MELDRUM, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Surbiton:

S. R. - 1

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, post mortem, laboratory (virus isolation).

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 15 January 1992.

Estimated date of first infection: 18 December 1991.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: one (1).

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Weston Longville, Broadland, Norfolk county.

Details concerning the outbreak:

No.	Species	No. of animals in the outbreak	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. of animals destroyed	No. of animals slaughtered
1	avi	7,753	...	7,129	624	0

Comments concerning affected population: fattening turkeys.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: first deaths occurred on 18 December 1991. Poisoning was initially suspected. No deaths since 24 December 1991. H5N1 virus isolated on 15 January 1992 with intravenous pathogenicity index of 3.0. Investigations are continuing.

Control measures taken to date: All poultry houses with 3 km have been placed under movement restrictions and a 10 km infected area has been imposed from 20 January 1992 at midnight.

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PORCINE REPRODUCTIVE AND RESPIRATORY SYNDROME IN FRANCE

Extract of a fax received on 21 January 1992 from Dr J. ADROIT, Head of the Department of Food Quality Control and Veterinary and Phytosanitary Actions, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Paris:

Following the spread of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) in a number of European countries, preventing measures against this mystery disease have been introduced in France.

All producers and other persons involved in this sector have been informed. Initially, the Directorate General for Food instructed the Veterinary Services of each Department to strengthen controls on all animals imported into France, both at frontiers and at the establishment to which animals are sent. A questionnaire relating to diagnosis of the disease, intended for veterinary practitioners, has been prepared by the CNEVA (National Veterinary Research Centre - Porcine Pathology Station, Ploufragan, France), and a national epidemiological surveillance plan has been in operation since May 1991.

Suspected cases must be notified to the Headquarters of the Veterinary Services of the appropriate Department. The Veterinary Services or the Veterinary practitioner then conduct an investigation in the establishment, using the questionnaire, and blood samples are taken. The questionnaire is analysed according to a list of ten criteria.

If the suspicion is confirmed, the production unit is placed under surveillance and an epidemiological investigation carried out within a radius of one kilometre. The laboratory analyses are aimed at eliminating known diseases or confirming PRRS if no other known disease can be found. If the PRRS diagnosis is positive, the establishment under surveillance is placed under quarantine.

The first cases of PRRS were confirmed on 18 November 1991 in the Côtes-d'Armor Department (Brittany region). On 20 January 1992, 26 outbreaks of PRRS were notified, all within the Côtes-d'Armor Department.

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AVIAN INFLUENZA IN SOUTH AFRICA Clarification

Text of a fax received on 23 January 1992 from Dr P.P. BOSMAN, Director, Animal Health, Veterinary Services, Department of Agriculture, Pretoria:

An outbreak of suspected avian influenza in ostriches was reported to the OIE on 8 November 1991 after the virus strain H7N1 was isolated from infected ostriches.

It was however essential to know the pathogenic potential of the virus in chickens under experimental conditions, and if the virus strain isolated in the field from ostriches corresponds with the criteria laid down by the OIE Standards Commission to be defined as an outbreak of "fowl plague".

In addition to the normal zoo-sanitary control measures instituted pending the final diagnosis, the following diagnostic procedures were performed to determine the pathogenicity of the virus for chickens:

1. Six 8 week old pullets were inoculated intramuscularly with 1 ml of a 1:10 dilution of the virus isolate;
2. Six 30 week old commercial layers were inoculated intramuscularly with a 1:10 dilution of the virus isolate;

Those birds were observed over a period of three weeks. They showed no signs of illness and there were no mortalities. All the birds seroconverted. Egg production of the layers remained unchanged.

3. Attempts to grow the virus in tissue culture were not successful.

The Central Veterinary Laboratory at Weybridge (United Kingdom) performed intravenous pathogenicity tests in specific pathogen-free chickens and also determined the amino-acid sequence of the cleavage site of the haemagglutinin. The virus was classified as an influenza A virus of the H7N1 subtype. Results of the intravenous pathogenicity tests were the same as those we recorded in our pathogenicity tests.

The amino acid sequence was:

Pro-Glu-Ile-Pro-Lys-Gly-Arg*Gly-Leu-Phe

The absence of additional basic amino-acids at the cleavage site confirmed that the virus was one of low pathogenicity for chickens.

It can thus be concluded that South Africa is free from fowl plague as defined by the OIE Standards Commission.

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