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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN BELGIUM

Translation of the text of a telex received on 18 February 1992 from Dr J. Tambreur, Inspector General, Veterinary Inspection Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Brussels:

S. R. - 1

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory (virus isolation).

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 14 February 1992.

Estimated date of first infection: unknown.

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

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Oud-Turnhout district, Antwerp province.

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	138	84	83	55	0

Comments concerning affected population: hobby fowls belonging to an amateur and including pigeons, peacocks, pheasants, poultry.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: epidemiological investigation under way.

Control measures taken to date: slaughter of all susceptible animals on the premises, and disposal of their carcasses in a destruction plant; creation of a 3 km control area around the outbreak and implementation of appropriate control measures, including isolation and a ban on the movement of poultry and other fowl.

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BONAMIOSIS IN AUSTRALIA

Text of a fax received on 20 February 1992 from Dr G. Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

S. R. - 1

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory (morphological study of the parasite using electron microscopy techniques).

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: two (2).

Geographical identification of the outbreaks: State of Victoria:

1. Port Phillip Bay
2. Westernport.

Comments concerning affected population: experimental groups of flat oysters (*Ostrea angasi*) in a growth rate trial; flat oysters are not commercially cultured or harvested in either location.

Comments concerning diagnosis: the clinical appearance of the disease and the morphology of the parasite appear identical to those of the strain found in New Zealand.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: this is the first occurrence of this disease in Australia; mortality rates of up to 95% were seen in the experimental groups. No evidence of infection has been found in other species of shellfish from these sites.

There is commercial harvesting and culture of flat oysters in the States of Tasmania and Western Australia. A shellfish health monitoring scheme in Tasmania over the past two years has not demonstrated the presence of bonamiosis. Furthermore a point survey in Western Australia has also failed to detect bonamiosis in flat oysters.

Control measures taken to date: expansion of current shellfish health monitoring schemes to include other States; imposition of movement restrictions on flat oyster breeding and replacement stock; comparison with overseas strains of *Bonamia*.

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