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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Text of a fax received on 27 September 1993 from Dr P.P. Bosman, Director of Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Pretoria:

S. R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 16 August 1993 (see *Disease Information*, 6 [32], 130).

Final date of this report period: 27 September 1993.

Estimated date of first infection: 15 June 1993.

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

Geographical identification of the new outbreak:

2. Bultfontein Farm, Rustenburg district, Transvaal province (25° 49' S - 27° 42' E).

Details concerning the new outbreak:

No.	Species	No. of animals in the outbreak	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. of animals destroyed	No. of animals slaughtered
2	avi	110	10	10	0	0

Comments concerning affected population and epidemiology of the disease: ostrich farm on which chicken manure from the adjoining De Rust Farm (see SR-1) was used. Provisional indications are that the infected chicken manure resulted in a severe challenge and spread of the disease within the flock of ostriches.

Comments concerning diagnosis: laboratory confirmation at the South Africa Poultry Reference Laboratory, University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort and at the Collindale laboratory (United Kingdom). Virus isolation in embryonated chicken eggs was confirmed by haemagglutination and haemagglutination inhibition tests. Mean death time varied between 47 and 64 hours.

Twelve two-week-old ostrich chicks were divided into an experimental group (six), challenged with the velogenic Newcastle disease virus isolate from the adjoining infected poultry farm, and a contact group (six). The chicks in both groups developed clinical signs after three days with 100% mortality two days after the onset of the clinical signs.

Control measures taken during report period: normal zoo-sanitary precautions taken; no marketing of live ostriches or products from infected area. All ostriches had already been vaccinated three times with La Sota Newcastle disease virus strain vaccine. Exports are in no way affected.

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SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS INFECTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Text of a fax received on 27 September 1993 from Dr P.P. Bosman, Director of Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Pretoria:

Salmonella enteritidis was originally diagnosed in a single unit during December 1991 in young broilers in the south-western region of the Cape Province, where mortality rates of up to 50% were recorded, but has recently spread to all the other provinces of the country. The origin of the infection is not known.

Geographical identification of the outbreaks:

In the western Cape, twelve outbreaks in breeder, broiler and layer flocks (three breeder, six broiler and three layer flocks) have been recorded.

In the Orange Free State, the infection has been provisionally diagnosed from abattoir samples from Kroonstad and Bloemfontein. Bacteriological identification has not yet been confirmed.

In the Transvaal, the infection has been diagnosed and confirmed on two farms.

In Natal province, the infection has been diagnosed and confirmed on three large commercial poultry units.

Comments concerning diagnosis: laboratory confirmation at the South Africa Poultry Reference Laboratory, University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort. Phage type 34 has been identified.

Control measures taken to date: the disease has been made a controlled animal disease within the terms of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act No. 35). In consequence, all outbreaks or suspected outbreaks must be reported to officials of the Directorate of Animal Health. Control measures currently employed include tightened import controls, continuous serological and bacteriological monitoring of grandparent stock, breeder flocks and commercial flocks to ascertain the prevalence of the disease, and the use of an inactivated vaccine and antibiotic treatment to reduce infection. The monitoring of the disease takes place in close cooperation between this Directorate, the Directorate of Meat Hygiene and the Department of National Health and Population Development.

N.B.: the estimated total poultry population in South Africa is 60,200,000. A total of 7,100,000 broilers are slaughtered weekly. The estimated number of layers is 11,600,000 with 3,600,000 breeding stock.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ITALY Lifting of sanitary measures

Translation of the text of a telex received on 27 September 1993 from Dr R. Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

The last outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Italy was observed on 7 June 1993 in Caserta province, Campania region, and since then no further outbreaks of the disease have been reported.

The Veterinary Services of Italy, in accordance with the decisions of the European Community, have conducted a serological survey, with favourable results, covering susceptible animals present in those provinces where outbreaks of foot and mouth disease were reported.

Since 15 September 1993, in accordance with Decision 93/419/EEC of 28 July 1993 adopted by the Commission of the European Communities, the export of live animals and animal products of susceptible species has been authorised from the entire territory of Italy, with the exception, however, of the Caserta province, where the serological survey of cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats is still in progress.

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HOG CHOLERA IN CROATIA

Text of a fax received on 30 September 1993 from Prof. Dr M. Tadic, Director of the Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Zagreb:

S. R. - 1

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, post-mortem and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 27 September 1993.

Estimated date of first infection: 16 September 1993.

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

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Lukavec village, Sisak municipality.

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	sui	330	40	14	316	0

Comments concerning affected population: fattening stock in a private farm.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: the source of infection has not been identified so far; investigations are under way.

Comments concerning diagnosis: immunofluorescence test.

Control measures taken to date: stamping-out; vaccination in the surrounding regions, standstill for all livestock within a 10-km radius of the outbreak. All other necessary sanitary measures have been taken.

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