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DISEASE INFORMATION

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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN GERMANY
(Imported animal)

Translation of the text of a fax received on 14 January 1994 from Dr N. Voetz, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

On 2 March 1992 the Pathology Institute at the Hannover Veterinary School detected lesions similar to those of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a Scottish Highland bovine which had been imported from Sussex (England, United Kingdom) on 28 July 1989 and died in Germany on 21 February 1992.

Between July 1989 and December 1991, the animal had been held consecutively in two farms in Lower Saxony. From December 1991 until its death, it was in a herd owned by a specialist breeder in Schleswig-Holstein.

The animal was born about three months before the general ban introduced in the United Kingdom on the use of meat and bone meal in cattle feed, and at the time there was no ban on importations into Germany.

The animal died on 21 February 1992 after exhibiting abnormal behaviour (tendancy to isolate itself from the herd, bruxism, aggressiveness). The other bovines in the herd (41 Galloways and 28 Scottish Highland cattle, all from Scotland) showed no clinical signs.

In the English herd of origin, two other animals are reported to have been infected with BSE.

The diagnosis by the Pathology Institute at the Hannover Veterinary School was based upon non-standard brain sections and procedures that did not comply with the EC rules for examinations for BSE. The histological examinations subsequently carried out by the Northern Bavaria Public Health Department, Nuremberg), which is the Reference Laboratory for Germany, failed to confirm this diagnosis. Furthermore, immunological tests conducted at the Federal Research Institute for Viral Diseases of Animals (Tübingen) and the Federal Health Office (Berlin) failed to detect prion protein characteristic of BSE.

Experiments on mice were then initiated at the Institute for Medical Microbiology and Contagious and Infectious Diseases at Ludwig Maximilian University (Munich). A group of twelve C 57 Black female mice were injected intracerebrally with brain tissue samples from the dead bovine, and a control group comprising eight C 57 Black mice received normal saline.

Of the mice in the first group, one died on 15 September 1993, after an incubation period of about 440 days, and a second mouse died on 2 October 1993. Both showed characteristic nervous signs. A third mouse, which subsequently developed similar signs, was euthanized one humane grounds on 2 November 1993.

Examination of the brains of the three mice confirmed the original suspicion of BSE. In addition, the Federal Research Institute for Viral Diseases of Animals demonstrated, using immunochemical methods, the presence of prion-associated protein in brain material from two of the mice.

It must therefore be concluded that the bovine which died in February 1992 did indeed have BSE.

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HOG CHOLERA IN BULGARIA

Translation of the text of a fax received on 17 January 1994 from Dr N.T. Belev, Delegate of Bulgaria to the OIE, Sofia:

S. R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 11 January 1994 (see *Disease Information*, **7** [2], 7).
Final date of this report period: 18 January 1994.
Estimated date of first infection: 16 December 1993.
Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: two (2).
Geographical identification of the new outbreak:
2. Vratchech village, Sofia department.

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	sui	42	3	2	37	0

Comments concerning affected population: fattening pigs.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: the pigs had been fed with swill.

Control measures taken during report period: stamping-out and quarantine.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN ZIMBABWE

Text of a fax received on 17 January 1994 from Dr S.K. Hargreaves, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement, Harare:

S. R. - 2 No. 2

Final date of previous report period: 7 January 1994 (see *Disease Information*, **7** [2], 7).
Final date of this report period: 17 January 1994.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: although not confirmed, a total of 28,000 poultry deaths have been reported as a result of this outbreak.

Control measures taken during report period: the vaccination programme within Sengwe Communal Area and in adjacent communal areas has been completed with a total vaccination of 176,533 chickens. Vaccinations were confined to Sengwe Communal Area and parts of Matibi 2 and Chipisa Communal Areas which both ajoin Sengwe.

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HOG CHOLERA IN GERMANY

Translation of the text of a fax received on 18 January 1994 from Dr N. Voetz, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

Final date of previous report period: 7 January 1994 (see *Disease Information*, **7** [2], 10).
Final date of this report period: 15 January 1994.
Number of separate outbreaks identified since the beginning of 1994: seven (7).
Geographical identification of the new outbreaks:
5-7. Vechta distric, Weser-Ems department, Lower Saxony *Land*.

Details concerning the new outbreaks:

No.	Species	No. of animals in the outbreak	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. of animals destroyed	No. of animals slaughtered
5	sui	349	10	10	339	0
6	sui	556	30	6	550	0
7	sui	251	11	0	251	0

Comments concerning affected population: fattening pigs.

Comments concerning diagnosis: virus isolation and neutralisation, immunofluorescence test.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: contamination between neighbouring farms.

Control measures taken during report period: stamping-out; all the necessary sanitary measures have been taken.

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HOG CHOLERA IN CUBA

Translation of the text of a fax received on 19 January 1994 from Dr E.F. Serrano Ramírez, Director General of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Havana:

S. R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 29 November 1993 (see *Disease Information*, **6** [49], 185).
Final date of this report period: 28 December 1993.
Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: forty-two (42).
Geographical identification of the new outbreaks:

- Pinar del Río province: municipalities of Candelaria (2 outbreaks), San Cristóbal (3 outbreaks), Consolación del Sur (3 outbreaks), Pinar del Río (1 outbreak), Bahía Honda (2 outbreaks), San Luis (1 outbreak), Minas (2 outbreaks);
- Havana province: municipalities of Güines (2 outbreaks), Quivicán, Caimito, Bejucal, San Antonio de los Baños (1 outbreak in each municipality);
- Havana City province: municipality of La Lisa (3 outbreaks);
- Matanzas province: municipality of Matanzas (2 outbreaks).

Details concerning the new outbreaks:

Nos.	Total number of animals in the outbreaks	Total number of cases	Total number of deaths	Total number of animals destroyed	Total number of animals slaughtered
18 to 42	7,857	386	89	297	7,471

Control measures taken during previous report period and still in force:

1. a state of sanitary alert has been declared throughout the national territory; Pinar del Río and Havana provinces have been declared infected zones, and Juventud island, Havana City and Matanzas provinces have been declared "at risk" zones;
2. immediate vaccination of swine in the infected and at-risk zones. In the remainder of the country, swine will be vaccinated according to the availability of vaccines;
3. the necessary sanitary measures have been taken in the outbreaks;
4. ban on the transport of swine within the infected and at-risk zones;
5. strengthening of epidemiological surveillance and information campaigns throughout the country.

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