

DISEASE INFORMATION

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Contents

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Italy: correction	203
Classical swine fever (hog cholera) in Croatia: lifting of sanitary measures	204
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Portugal	204
Suspected foot and mouth disease in Bahrain	205
Acute equine respiratory syndrome in Australia: no new cases	206
Spring viraemia of carp in the United Kingdom / Great Britain	208

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN ITALY Correction

Translation of the text of a fax received on 16 December 1994 from Dr R. Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

Final date of previous report period: 3 November 1994 (see *Disease Information*, 7 [42], 183).

Final date of this report period: 16 December 1994.

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

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Castellammare del Golfo municipality, Trapani province, Sicily region.

Correction concerning affected population: the disease was officially confirmed in two cows of Limousin breed imported from the United Kingdom, and not in one cow as stated in the SR-1 (see p. 183). Both animals were part of the same consignment, imported into Italy from the United Kingdom on 7 November 1989.

Control measures taken during report period: the carcasses of the sick animals were destroyed under official veterinary control.

- Considering that the British veterinary authorities have confirmed the presence of the disease in the farms of origin of the infected animals, which indicates that the infection existed before shipment;
- considering that bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) has been a notifiable disease in Italy since 1991;
- considering that the infected animals have been destroyed;
- considering that a BSE monitoring programme has existed in Italy since 1990, that this programme provides for the random sampling of brains from cattle at the abattoir, and that the tests on these samples have all proved negative, thus ruling out the presence of the disease in the national herd;
- considering that in Italy, since 1991, all animals presenting nervous signs on ante mortem inspection have undergone further tests in order to rule out a diagnosis of BSE, and that no positive case has ever been found;
- considering that all the animals in the outbreak were confined while awaiting destruction and/or use for research purposes,

and in accordance with Article 3.2.13.2. of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*, OIE Member Countries are informed that there is no justification for requiring additional sanitary guarantees in relation to BSE for the export of animals and animal products from Italy.

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER (HOG CHOLERA) IN CROATIA
Lifting of sanitary measures

Text of a fax received on 20 December 1994 from Prof. M. Tadic, Head of the Veterinary Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Zagreb:

S. R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 28 October 1994 (see *Disease Information*, **7** [42], 179).

Final date of this report period: 15 December 1994.

The last outbreak of hog cholera was confirmed in Croatia on 27 October 1994. No new outbreaks have occurred since that date. As Croatia has been free from hog cholera since 12 December 1994, all veterinary-sanitary measures taken in order to control this disease have been suspended.

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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN PORTUGAL

Translation of the text of a communication received on 20 December 1994 from Dr J.M. Machado Gouveia, Director general of Animal Husbandry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Lisbon:

S. R. - 2 No. 3

Final date of previous report period: 22 September 1994 (see *Disease Information*, **7** [37], 155).

Final date of this report period: 12 December 1994.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: six (6).

Geographical identification of the new outbreaks: Entre Douro e Minho region (north of the country):

5. Vila Nova de Famalicão district, Sanitary Intervention Zone No. 2
6. Póvoa do Lanhoso district, Sanitary Intervention Zone No. 2.

Latest details concerning the outbreaks:

No.	Species	No. of animals in the outbreak	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. of animals destroyed	No. of animals slaughtered
3	bov	120	1	0	1	0
4	bov	39	0	0	0	0
5	bov	17	1	0	1	0
6	bov	80	1	0	1	0

Comments concerning affected population:

- Outbreak No. 3: the fourth case recorded in this outbreak involves a 5-year-old cow, born in Portugal to a cow imported from the United Kingdom in 1981.
- Outbreak No. 5 : a 5-year-old cow, born in Portugal, probably of German parentage.
- Outbreak No. 6 : a 8-year-old cow, born in Portugal to a cow of German origin.

Comments concerning diagnosis: the fourth case in outbreak No. 3 was confirmed on 22 October 1994; the cases in outbreaks Nos. 5 and 6 were confirmed on 24 November 1994.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: investigations are under way to determine the mode of contamination.

Control measures taken during report period: affected farms placed under quarantine and animal movement controls introduced; slaughter and destruction by incineration of the sick cows; systematic destruction, at slaughter, of all the organs, brain, thymus, spinal cord, tonsils, spleen and intestines of all other animals in the outbreaks.

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SUSPECTED FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BAHRAIN

Text of a fax received on 21 December 1994 from Dr Khalid Ahmed Mohamed, Head of Veterinary Service Section, Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture, Manama:

S. R. - 1

Nature of diagnosis: clinical.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 15 December 1994.

Estimated date of first infection: 5 December 1994.

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

Geographical identification of the outbreaks:

1. Jidd Hafs
2. Buri.

Details concerning the outbreaks:

No.	Species	No. of animals in the outbreak	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. of animals destroyed	No. of animals slaughtered
1	bov	50	6	0	0	0
2	bov	35	7	0	0	0

Control measures taken to date: vaccination.

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ACUTE EQUINE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME IN AUSTRALIA
No new cases

Text of a fax received on 22 December 1994 from Dr G. Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

S. R. - 2 No. 2

Final date of previous report period: 7 November 1994 (see Disease Information, 7 [43], 185).

Final date of this report period: 22 December 1994.

Extensive clinical and serological surveillance of horses in south-east Queensland has detected no further evidence of the acute equine respiratory syndrome (AERS). All horses affected or with positive serology have either died or been humanely destroyed. All horses exposed to the affected horses have been tested with negative results. A thorough decontamination of the primary stable complex at Hendra has been completed. Restrictions have been removed from all horses and from all premises.

The Australian Veterinary Authorities consider that the outbreak is over.

The following action has now been completed:

- no new cases of AERS have occurred since the last affected horse died on 26 September 1994;
- additional survey testing for the Morbillivirus in horses from south-east Queensland has been completed with negative results;
- the ten (10) horses from the affected stables which had previously tested negative were retested more than 14 days after removal from the affected premises and possible exposure to infection, and were again negative;
- there are no horses remaining subject to movement restrictions; and
- the original stables affected and two adjacent stables at Hendra, a suburb of Brisbane, have been subjected to a very thorough decontamination programme;
- quarantine has been lifted from all properties.

Details of surveillance testing are as follows:

Zone	No. of premises	No. of horses
Quarantined premises *	13	107
1 (within 100 m of Hendra stables)	7	54
2 (100 to 200 m from Hendra stables)	21	122
3 (200 m to 1 km from Hendra stables)	92	730
4/5 (remainder of Queensland)	> 500	951
Total	> 630	1,964

* Quarantined premises included those with clinical cases, holding properties associated with the Hendra stables and other premises that held horses under investigation.

All the results were negative. All horses traced after contact or possible exposure to infection have been negative to one or more tests after an interval of one incubation period or longer from the last possible exposure.

Extensive clinical surveillance has also been undertaken. All veterinary practices in Queensland were contacted twice and there was extensive media coverage seeking reporting of suspicious signs. Six horse deaths with suggestive signs were investigated in Queensland and in all cases AERS was ruled

out. Horses with respiratory signs were also investigated in other States/Territories; 14 cases were investigated and AERS was excluded on all occasions.

The extensive random sampling of 951 horses outside the immediate vicinity of the Hendra stables (zones 4 [remainder of the original restricted area] and 5 [remainder of Queensland]) provides a probability of 99% of detecting an infection with a prevalence equal to or less than 0.5%. The outbreak has been confined to a single cluster of horses with very close contact. The surveillance results give a high level of confidence that no other clusters exist. This is reinforced by the absence of reports of other cases despite extensive canvassing for reports of suspected signs.

The index case was a heavily pregnant mare in poor condition moved from a holding facility to the associated Hendra stables. The trainer and a stablehand force-fed this mare when she was moribund and had a frothy nasal discharge likely to have been heavily contaminated by the Morbillivirus. They became ill at about the same time as other affected horses in the Hendra stables, indicating that the trainer, the stable hand and the infected horses all showed an incubation period of 8 to 11 days after close exposure to the index case.

No horses had been introduced into the stables or associated holding premises immediately before the outbreak, although there were movements between the associated premises. Horses moved from the affected premises were traced and all exposed horses were tested, with negative results.

Natural transmission occurs from very close contact or mechanical transfer with the frothy, virus-rich nasal discharges. Aerosol transmission seems unlikely – the upper respiratory tract does not have lesions and coughing is not a feature of the syndrome. Available evidence suggests that this virus is **not** highly contagious under conditions of natural transmission.

The Australian Veterinary Authorities are satisfied that the incident is over and that the disease has been eradicated. Restrictions on the import of horses from any part of Australia, including south-east Queensland, are no longer considered necessary.

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SPRING VIRAEMIA OF CARP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM / GREAT BRITAIN

Text of a fax received on 22 December 1994 from Dr K.C. Meldrum, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Surbiton:

S. R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 7 July 1994 (see *Disease Information*, 7 [27], 115).

Final date of this report period: 22 December 1994.

Estimated date of first infection: unknown.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: twenty-two (22).

Geographical identification of the new outbreaks: Glasgow, Somerset, Suffolk.

Details concerning the new outbreaks:

No.	Species	No. of animals in the outbreak	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. of animals destroyed
16	goldfish and tench	3,500	3,500	0	3,500
17	goldfish and carp	2,500	2,500	0	2,500
18	goldfish and carp	1,000	1,000	0	1,000
19	carp	1,500	1,500	0	0
20	goldfish and carp	1,400	1,200	600	800
21	carp	400	200	40	0
22	carp	100	1	1	99

Comments concerning affected population: Cyprinidae: carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), and tench (*Tinca tinca*).

Comments concerning diagnosis: inoculation of tissue extracts from moribund and dead fish onto an EPC cell line resulted in a cytopathic effect, which was confirmed by ELISA and serum neutralisation tests to be due to spring viraemia of carp virus.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease:

The disease was first seen in imported goldfish and subsequently in susceptible species in contact with such goldfish. Cases have been confirmed in ornamental ponds, the premises of ornamental fish dealers, fish farms and coarse angling waters in both the newly-introduced fish and in natural breeding populations of carp in these waters. An investigation is under way to trace the sources of infection. All supplying and receiving sites involved in the United Kingdom are being visited and further samples are being collected where necessary.

Outbreaks Nos. 12 and 19 showed no clinical signs of disease but infection was found when samples were taken as a result of tracing back to the wholesale distributor from infected retail premises.

Control measures taken to date:

Movement controls have been imposed on all fish into and out of the positive sites, eleven of which have already taken action to eradicate the disease.

Outbreaks Nos. 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13 and 21 occurred in fisheries where it was not possible to destroy all fish. The premises have been placed under movement restrictions for at least three years and until testing negative. Similar action has been taken for outbreak No. 14.

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