

DISEASE INFORMATION

10 March 1995

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN TAIPEI CHINA

Text of a fax received on 4 March 1995 from Dr S.-C. Chyr, Director of the Animal Industry Department, Council of Agriculture, Taipei:

S. R. - 1

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

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 5 January 1995.

Estimated date of first infection: unknown.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: twelve (12).

Geographical identification of the outbreaks:

- 1-4. Yunlin prefecture
- 5-12. Chiayi prefecture.

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	avi	12,000	7,000	6,500	5,500	0
2	avi	16,000	5,000	4,500	11,500	0
3	avi	24,000	10,000	9,000	15,000	0
4	avi	22,000	10,000	9,000	13,000	0
5	avi	55,000	25,000	25,000	30,000	0
6	avi	15,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	0
7	avi	10,500	10,500	10,500	0	0
8	avi	15,200	13,000	13,000	2,200	0
9	avi	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
10	avi	20,000	6,000	6,000	14,000	0
11	avi	20,000	1,000	1,000	19,000	0
12	avi	17,000	5,000	5,000	12,000	0

Comments concerning affected population: the outbreaks affected only native chickens in coastal areas of Taiwan where migrating wildfowl are present. Under our production system, the farms infected are classified as smallholdings.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: there had been no cases of Newcastle disease since 1991, and many farmers had stopped vaccinating. The origin of the disease is still unknown, but is thought to be migrating wildfowl; investigations are continuing. The high mortality in every infected farm was largely due to environmental factors: it was very cold with strong winds at that time and the premises were therefore kept tightly closed without appropriate ventilation. As a result, ammonia concentrations reached a very high level, causing most of the birds to present respiratory signs. Only a very small percentage of birds had typical Newcastle disease lesions. Further investigations on the pathogenicity of the isolated virus have been carried out, but it would not appear to be a very virulent strain.

Control measures taken to date: affected farms have been placed under quarantine, and surveillance has been carried out within a radius of 3 km. Since the last outbreak, on 25 January, no further outbreaks have been detected within the protection zones. Newcastle disease is exotic in Taipei China. A stamping-out policy was therefore adopted. All birds in the affected farms were destroyed and the premises thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. These premises have to remain unstocked for three months. Meanwhile, vaccination has been implemented in the protection zones.

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HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (FOWL PLAGUE) IN MEXICO

Translation of an extract from a fax received on 2 March 1995 from Dr H. Campos López, Director General of Animal Health Department, Secretariat for Agriculture, Animal Production and Rural Development, Mexico City:

S. R. - 2 No. 4

Final date of previous report period: 24 January 1995 (see *Disease Information*, **8** [4], 13).

Final date of this report period: 28 February 1995.

Geographical identification of the new outbreaks: Tehuacán (State of Puebla) and Villa del Marqués (State of Querétaro). In addition, an outbreak due to a mesogenic virus strain was reported in Tepatitlán (State of Jalisco).

Comments concerning affected population: commercial poultry units.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: surveillance is under way in the affected areas in order to determine the spread of the disease.

Control measures taken during report period: affected areas placed under quarantine; investigations and continual surveillance in the holdings; laboratory diagnostic testing; cleansing and disinfection of affected holdings; strict controls on the transport of birds and their products in the affected zones. Vaccination is being carried out in areas and holdings at risk, subject to the authorisation of the Directorate General for Animal Health.

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