

DISEASE INFORMATION

30 June 1995

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JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS IN A NORTHERN ISLAND OF AUSTRALIA Additional information

Text of a fax received on 26 June 1995 from Dr G. Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

Clinical and serological surveillance has confirmed that there is no evidence of Japanese encephalitis infection in humans or animals in continental Australia (including Tasmania). There have been no more clinical cases of the disease on Torres Strait islands. Surveillance is continuing and the movement of animals continues to be restricted between the two special quarantine zones and mainland Australia.

Summary of the results of serological surveillance to 26 June 1995 (methods used for serological surveillance were described in *Disease Information*, 8 [19], 52):

Location	Number positive/Number sampled			
	pigs	horses	dogs	poultry
Badu Island	12/12 ^{VN}	6/10 ^{VN}	10/22 ^{VN}	0/10
Moa Island	45/51 ¹	no horses	14/28 ²	0/4
Mabuiag Island	16/19 ³	no horses	6/16 ⁴	-
Bamaga	0/20	-	-	0/17
Stephens Island (± 180 km east of Badu Island)	0/14 ⁵	-	0/7 ⁶	0/18 ⁷
Cape York	-	-	-	0/25
commercial piggeries, North Queensland*	0/82	-	-	-

VN virus neutralisation test

1 8/10 of haemagglutination inhibition (HI) positives also positive in VN

2 0/3 of HI positives also positive in VN

3 3/5 of HI positives also positive in VN

4 1/3 of HI positives also positive in VN

5 11/14 were HI positive, all negative to VN test

6 2/7 were HI positive, all negative to VN test

7 all HI negative, all negative to VN test

- not sampled

* piggeries sampled (Atherton Tableland, Mackay, Townsville and Rockhampton) all negative to VN test

**AUSTRALIA DECLARES FREEDOM FROM HIGHLY
PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (FOWL PLAGUE)**

Text of a fax received on 28 June 1995 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: 3 February 1995 (see *Disease Information*, **8** [4], 15).

Final date of this report period: 27 June 1995.

Australia is once again free from highly pathogenic avian influenza (fowl plague), as of 24 June 1995.

Stamping-out measures were undertaken on the single infected property on 23 December 1994 (see *Disease Information*, **7** [50], 209), and there have been no cases for the last six months, based on a surveillance and monitoring programme.

The affected poultry farm is in an area isolated by at least 12 kilometres from other commercial poultry establishments.

One month after destruction of all birds on the infected property, a serological survey of domestic birds in 17 surrounding properties within a 1-km radius was conducted to detect infection at the 5% level with 95% confidence. This involved testing 222 chickens, 26 ducks, 26 turkeys and 8 geese. The results demonstrated that avian influenza was not present.

Dead bird examination and surveillance has involved 8 properties and 11 autopsies without any cases of avian influenza being detected.

There have been no reports of serious illness of birds on any of the properties in the restricted area since the time of the outbreak.

One hundred hens were placed in the infected shed during March 1995 following disinfection of the property. Sixty of these birds were identified and serologically tested, on entry and after 21 days, with no evidence of avian influenza. These birds were examined three times a week during the 21-day period, after which they were destroyed and buried.

For commercial reasons, the property has not been restocked. Thus a period of over six months has passed with the property held free from poultry other than the sentinel birds.

Queensland has therefore satisfied the conditions to be considered free, under Article 2.1.14.2. of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*, having implemented a stamping-out policy and disinfection procedures. A monitoring programme has been implemented and there have been no further cases anywhere in Australia, since the December outbreak.

Australia supports the application of OIE zoning principles outlined in Chapter 1.4.4. of the *International Animal Health Code*. Queensland was the only State in Australia to have incurred cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in 1994.

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