

DISEASE INFORMATION

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RINDERPEST ABSENT FROM NIGER Clarification

Further to a verbal note received on 21 September 1995 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Niger, the OIE Central Bureau wishes to confirm hereby that no outbreaks of rinderpest have been reported by this country since 1985.

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SHEEP POX IN BULGARIA Lifting of sanitary measures

Translation of the text of a fax received on 28 September 1995 from Prof. Dr J. Kostadinov, Director General of the State Veterinary Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Sofia:

S. R. - 2 No. 2

Final date of previous report period: 1 September 1995 (see *Disease Information*, 8 [33], 94).

Final date of this report period: 16 August 1995.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: three (3).

Comments concerning diagnosis: diagnosis confirmed by the Central Veterinary Institute, Sofia.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: sheep pox has been observed only in the three outbreaks reported previously. It has not spread either within the Burgas region nor to the rest of the Bulgarian territory.

The table on page 102 shows definitive data relating to this episode.

SHEEP POX IN BURGAS REGION

District	Location	Number of							Date of 1st detection of incident
		farms	sheep	goats	farms affected	cases	animals slaughtered		
							sheep	goats	
Sredetz	Sredetz	269	3,424	863	7	52	119	1	20/08/95
Boliarovo	Voden	280	1,479	206	3	5	5	0	25/08/95
Tzarevo	Varvara	30	273	69	14	22	22	0	29/08/95
Total		849	5,176	1,138	34	79	146	1	

Control measures taken during report period:

1. At a national level:

All measures relating to the ban on the export of small ruminants and their products have been lifted, except in Burgas region. Police checks relating to their transport are being maintained, as well as clinical examinations of sheep and goats. Strict veterinary inspections are still applied on milk collection and processing plants. Similar measures are applied on warehouses for skins and wool.

2. In Burgas region:

- strengthening of Burgas Veterinary Service with a team of 20 veterinary surgeons trained for the diagnosis of sheep pox;
- census of all sheep and goats;
- weekly clinical examination of small ruminants;
- division of grazing areas into sectors and identification of buffer zones between villages, in order to isolate the different flocks;
- ban on the slaughter of small ruminants, unless when necessary; in such case slaughter is carried out under veterinary supervision;
- in Sredetz, Tsarevo and Boliarovo districts, daily holding of meetings about control measures;
- skins and wool obtained before detection of the disease have been submitted to chemical and heat processing in specialised firms.

3. In villages where outbreaks were registered:

- animals are quarantined in sheepfolds;
- they are submitted to daily clinical examinations;
- they are dipped in a 4% iodophor solution;
- disinfection, disinsectation and rodent extermination on affected premises was completed on 21 September 1995;
- 11 million leva were spent in compensation for the measures applied and the slaughter of animals;
- tagged and vaccinated animals will be slaughtered as soon as financial means, necessary for the indemnification of owners, are available.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN LUXEMBOURG

Translation of the text of a fax received on 29 September 1995 from Dr J. Kremer, Director of the Administration of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Luxembourg:

S. R. - 1

Estimated date of first infection: 15 September 1995.

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

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Canach (in the eastern part of the country).

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
1/95	avi	27	...	22	5	0

Comments concerning affected population: breeding and fattening family-run farm containing hens and turkeys.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: epidemiological investigations are under way.

Control measures taken to date: slaughter of the remaining poultry and actions of cleansing and disinfection completed; measures for the control of Newcastle disease provided by Directive 92/66/EEC of the Council of the European Communities (14 July 1992) applied.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN CANADA In wild cormorants

Text of a fax received on 29 September 1995 from Dr N.G. Willis, Director General of the Animal and Plant Health Directorate, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa:

S. R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 1 September 1995 (see *Disease Information*, **8** [33], 94).

Final date of this report period: 28 September 1995.

Estimated date of primary infection: end of July 1995.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: three (3).

Geographical identification of the new outbreaks:

2/95. 54° 43' N - 107° 32' W, Doré Lake, Saskatchewan province (northern area, far from any commercial flocks)

3/95. 44° 00' N - 77° 45' W, near Presqu'île Point, Ontario Lake, Ontario province.

Comments concerning affected population:

- Outbreak No. 2/95: double-crested cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). There are three established cormorant breeding island colonies on Doré Lake, with a total of about 20,000 wild birds. All colonies showed morbidity and mortalities associated with clinical signs similar to those of Newcastle disease in only the young of year fledglings.
- Outbreak No. 3/95: there are two established cormorant breeding island colonies on High Bluff and Gull Islands, near Presqu'île Point. Of the approximately 500 birds observed on these two colonies, only 1% were noted with clinical signs suggestive of Newcastle disease.

Diagnosis:

- Outbreak No. 2/95: enriched embryonic fluid isolate was sent to the Animal Disease Research Institute (Hull, Québec) on 12 August 1995. Diagnosis was confirmed on 19 September 1995 from a pool of tissue samples from five birds.

Intracerebral pathogenicity index: 1.61

Intravenous pathogenicity index: 1.23

- Outbreak No. 3/95: confirmation of diagnosis on 26 September 1995 from a pool of tissue samples from three birds.

Intracerebral pathogenicity index: range 1.65 - 1.71

Intravenous pathogenicity index: range 0.74 - 0.96

Comments concerning diagnosis: isolates with similar indices of pathogenicity were reported in 1990 and 1992 in cormorants. In the previous experience, there was no extension to the domestic poultry population and there is no evidence of involvement of domestic poultry in the present case.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: the period of acute clinical disease and mortality is over. With the appearance of the first frosts at this time of year, the birds have nearly completed their migration from their colony to the south.

Control measures taken during report period: poultry industry has been informed with updated factsheets that were distributed in 1992 when Newcastle disease was also diagnosed in wild cormorants. All regions and provinces have been asked to increase vigilance and to report any suspicious cases and unusual losses. A close collaboration has been established between wildlife biologists and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Laboratories are monitoring all diagnostic submissions.

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VESICULAR STOMATITIS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Combination of two faxes received on 3 and 5 October 1995 from Dr L.J. King, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

S. R. - 2 No. 10

Final date of previous report period: 28 August 1995 (see *Disease Information*, **8** [32], 92).

Final date of this report period: 5 October 1995.

Estimated date of first infection: 29 April 1995.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: three hundred and eighteen (318).

Geographical identification of the new outbreaks: states of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Texas and Wyoming.

Outbreak No. 309/95 (Henderson, Rusk County, Texas) is the first recurrence of vesicular stomatitis in Texas since being declared a free zone on 28 August 1995. Virus was isolated on 2 October 1995 from a horse in a herd of six. The case appeared in an emaciated 6-month-old colt being treated for profuse watery diarrhoea at a local veterinary clinic. Epidemiological tracebacks are in progress.

Outbreak No. 318/95 (Worland, Washakie County, Wyoming) is the first occurrence of vesicular stomatitis in the state of Wyoming. The affected premises lies in the Bighorn River valley, suggesting possible vector transmission. One Angus and two Simmental cattle in a beef herd containing 36 animals were clinically affected. The herd has been a closed herd for several months.

Comments concerning diagnosis: a total of 817 field investigations have been performed to date. Of these, 318 were positive:

- 186 in New Mexico, where there are currently 9 quarantined premises;
- 124 in Colorado, where there are currently 79 quarantined premises;
- 4 in Utah, where there are currently 3 quarantined premises;
- 2 in Texas, where there is currently 1 quarantined premises;
- 1 in Wyoming, where the premises are under quarantine;
- 1 in Arizona, where the premises have been released from quarantine. Arizona continues to be free since 7 August 1995.

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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN MOZAMBIQUE

Text of a fax received on 4 October 1995 from Dr F.G. Pinto, Head of the Animal Health Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Maputo:

S. R. - 1

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and post-mortem.

Estimated date of first infection: 21 July 1995.

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

Geographical identification of the outbreak: 14° 47' S - 36° 33' E, Cuamba district, Niassa Province (in the northern part of the country).

Comments concerning affected population: 90 pigs died in one farm.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: the disease is reported for the first time in the province. It is not endemic in Cuamba district, but it may have spread from Gurue district, in Zambezia Province, through pork sellers.

Control measures taken to date: slaughter of all remaining pigs and disinfection of the affected piggery; ban on the movement of animals and pork in the area.

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VENEZUELAN EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS IN VENEZUELA

Translation of the text of a fax received on 4 October 1995 from Dr Z. Graff, Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Production, Caracas:

S. R. - 1

Outbreaks of Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis were reported in April 1995 in the state of Yaracuy, and, during the following months, in the States of Falcón, Carabobo, Zulia, and, recently, in the state of Lara. Sporadic cases were reported in the states of Guárico and Cojedes.

Comments concerning affected population: animals affected are horses, mules or donkeys kept on medium and small premises and owned by people who have modest means.

Comments concerning diagnosis: the virus of Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis was isolated from equine and human samples.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: outbreaks appear in states where equine encephalomyelitis is enzootic. The disease became epizootic owing to a repopulation with susceptible (young) equines. The incidence of the disease is currently decreasing thanks to the control measures applied.

Control measures taken to date: quarantine at the state level and at the zone level, vaccination, continuous epidemiological surveillance, epidemiological surveys and follow-up of the reporting of outbreaks, sampling for laboratory diagnosis, fumigation in the air and the ground, destruction of larvae, informing the owners by means of newspapers, radio and television transmission, nation-wide state of alert for the monitoring of suspected outbreaks or cases of Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis.

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SCREWWORM (*COCHLIOMYIA HOMINIVORAX*) IN CUBA

Translation of the text of a fax received on 5 October 1995 from Dr E.F. Serrano Ramírez, Director General of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Havana:

S. R. - 1

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: March 1995.

Geographical identification of the outbreaks: the presence of *C. hominivorax* was detected in all the provinces in the country, except Juventud Island.

Comments concerning affected population: cases mainly occurred in cattle species, but swine, ovine, equine and caprine species were also affected.

Comments concerning diagnosis: a total of 385 samples have been taken since March 1995 and submitted to the Cuba National Animal and Plant Health Centre. *C. hominivorax* was detected in 59.74% of the samples examined. Exactness of diagnosis was ensured by the consideration of internationally recognised standards (examination of the mature third larval stage in order to differentiate *C. hominivorax* screwworm from larvae of other dipterans)

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: while widely-distributed, this plague did not cause a lot of damage, thanks to our livestock production system which ensures better veterinary monitoring in case of clinical myiasis, to the efficiency of the treatment applied in such cases, to the systematic dipping of cattle for the control of ticks, and to the surveillance system applied in the country.

Control measures taken to date:

- nation-wide strengthening of epizootiological surveillance and information campaigns;
- training of all people working in the field of animal production;
- monitoring of primary lesions likely to originate myiasis, and suitable veterinary treatment;
- study of the seasonal activity of screwworm in Cuba.

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