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### **BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN PORTUGAL**

*Translation of a fax received on 28 May 1996 from Dr J.M. Machado Gouveia, Director General of Animal Husbandry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Lisbon:*

S. R. - 1

**Date of initial detection of the new outbreak:** 8 March 1996.

**Number of cases identified since the beginning of 1996:** six (6).

**Geographical identification of the new outbreak:**

6/96. College of Agronomy, Quinta Sr<sup>a</sup>. Mércules, Castelo Branco Sanitary Intervention Zone, Beira Interior region.

**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
6/96	bov	46	1	0	46	0

**Comments concerning affected population:** a 7-year-old cow born in Portugal.

**Comments concerning diagnosis:** histopathological confirmation on 22 May 1996.

**Control measures taken to date:** the affected farm has been placed under quarantine and animal movement controls have been introduced; slaughter and destruction by incineration of the sick animal. Slaughter in the abattoir of the 45 remaining animals and destruction by incineration of their carcasses and offals.

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## **RINDERPEST IN AFGHANISTAN** **Confirmation of diagnosis**

*Text of a communication received on 29 May 1996 from Dr A. Qader Raoufi, General President of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Kabul:*

S. R. - 2 No. 1

**Final date of previous report period:** 11 February 1996 (see *Disease Information*, 9 [7], 22).

**Final date of this report period:** 15 May 1996.

**Estimated date of first infection:** 4 September 1995.

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

**Geographical identification of the outbreaks:** Bodakhil, Spinkiburi and Asalbani villages, Lacan (Shamal) district, Khost province.

**Comments concerning affected population:** disease occurred in cattle confined in compounds but exposed to newly purchased animals and pasture herds. No new cases have been confirmed since the last report on 11 February 1996.

**Comments concerning diagnosis:** three attempts at virus isolation from animals under surveillance all proved negative. PCR<sup>1</sup> studies carried out the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright<sup>2</sup> (United Kingdom) showed the same genome sequence as that found in samples from Pakistan in 1994.

**Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease:** cattle infected with rinderpest virus were brought into Afghanistan by truck, where they were put on sale in Khost city market.

**Control measures taken during report period:** intensive follow-up of suspected cases is continuing to be carried out by regional veterinarians; revaccination (up to 150,000 doses) in Khost and the surrounding districts is planned for late 1996.

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## **NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN FINLAND**

*Text of a fax received on 15 May 1996 from Dr Saara Reinius, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki:*

S. R. - 2 No. 1

**Final date of previous report period:** 15 May 1996 (see *Disease Information*, 9 [18], 59).

**Final date of this report period:** 29 May 1996.

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

**Geographical identification of the outbreak:** Oulu University.

**Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease:**

Wild pigeons brought to Oulu University on 25 March 1996 were suspected to be the source of infection. In order to confirm this suspicion, the population of origin of these pigeons was examined, and 83 wild pigeons were caught and tested for the presence of paramyxovirus-1 antibodies. The results were available on 28 May 1996: 31 pigeons were serologically positive. Clinical signs of the disease have not been detected in wild pigeons.

Distress resulting from captivity was a probable cause of clinical disease in the subclinically infected pigeons brought to Oulu University.

No further spread of the infection has been reported.

**Control measures taken during report period:** the remaining 646 birds on the premises were killed and destroyed on 15 May 1996. Cleansing and disinfection of the infected premises have been completed.

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<sup>1</sup> PCR: Polymerase chain reaction.

<sup>2</sup> OIE Reference Laboratory for rinderpest.

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### CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN SLOVENIA

Text of a fax received on 29 May 1996 from Dr Z. Kovac, Head of Epizootiology Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ljubljana:

S. R. - 1

**Date of initial detection of animal health incident:** 28 May 1996.

**Estimated date of first infection:** 14 May 1996.

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

**Geographical identification of the outbreak:** Domzale municipality, near Ljubljana.

**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
1/96	sui	25	1	1	24	0

**Comments concerning affected population:** unvaccinated fattening pigs in a private farm.

**Comments concerning diagnosis:** virus isolation carried out at the Institute of Virology of Hannover Veterinary School<sup>3</sup> (Germany) from cell culture supernatants.

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

**Control measures taken to date:** slaughter of the remaining animals and destruction of their carcasses in a rendering plant; ban on animal movements; vaccination in a 3-km-radius protection zone.

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### NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN JAPAN

Text of a fax received on 31 May 1996 from Dr A. Aonuma, Director of Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tokyo:

S. R. - 1

**Date of initial detection of animal health incident:** 13 February 1996.

**Estimated date of first infection:** 31 January 1996.

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

**Geographical identification of the outbreak:** Tokyo.

**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
1/96	avi	...	19	15	4	0

**Comments concerning affected population:** unvaccinated hobby fowl.

**Comments concerning diagnosis:** samples of the affected flocks were sent to the Tokyo Livestock Hygiene Service Center on 8 February 1996, and Newcastle disease was diagnosed by haemagglutination inhibition test and virus isolation.

<sup>3</sup> OIE Reference Laboratory for classical swine fever.

**Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease:** on 31 January 1996 the hobby flock owner purchased two birds. One of them started to show clinical signs on 1 February and died the next day. Initially, a veterinary practitioner was consulted to treat them, but the treatment proved ineffective. There had been no outbreaks of Newcastle disease in Japan since 1992. Tracing back is under way.

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