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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN SOUTH AFRICA
Recent status

Text of a fax received on 9 September 1996 from Dr P.P. Bosman, Chief Director of Veterinary Services and Livestock Improvement, Pretoria:

The incidence of Newcastle disease which caused serious problems in South Africa in 1994 (see *Disease Information*, **7** [20], 80), declined in 1995. South Africa is, however, not free from Newcastle disease. Isolated outbreaks of Newcastle disease occurred in chickens in various locations in South Africa during 1995/96.

A few isolated outbreaks have now occurred in farmed ostriches in the Western Cape province and the Eastern Cape province from June to August 1996:

1. Oudtshoorn district, Western Cape province (33° 31' S - 22° 33' E)
2. Uitenhage district, Eastern Cape province (33° 30' S - 25° 39' E)
3. Somerset East district, Eastern Cape province (32° 52' S - 25° 35' E).

Comments concerning diagnosis:

The diagnoses were made on clinical signs, post-mortem findings and laboratory confirmation.

Control measures taken to date:

- Quarantine measures were imposed on all the farms on which outbreaks had occurred and on all farms within a 10-km radius around the respective farms on which outbreaks occurred, with vaccination of all chickens and ostriches. Export of ostrich products from quarantined farms is not allowed.
- Export from unaffected and unrestricted areas continues.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Situation

Text of a fax received on 13 September 1996 from Dr J.M. Arnoldi, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

S. R. - 2 No. 2

Final date of previous report period: 12 August 1996 (see *Disease Information*, 9 [31], 119).

Final date of this report period: 13 September 1996.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: five (5).

Regarding the outbreak of viscerotropic velogenic Newcastle disease (VVND) in psittacines in the state of Missouri during July 1996, five premises in total had confirmed cases. Of the 444 birds on these five premises, 7 birds were confirmed as positive and all 7 birds died naturally, and 437 birds were determined negative after two cloacal swabs 15 days apart. These five premises were released from quarantine in August.

Other contact premises discovered during trace-back were placed under quarantine and swabbed. As of 13 September 1996, all have been released from quarantine except for one. No birds on these contact premises have shown any clinical signs consistent with VVND.

Finally, in August, there was a preliminary report of an isolation of a strain of Newcastle disease virus in a psittacine bird from Oklahoma different from the strains isolated in the 7 psittacines in Missouri. After further investigation, the laboratory samples from this bird were determined to be negative for Newcastle disease virus.

HandiSTATUS on Internet

HandiSTATUS is now available on the *World Wide Web*. If you have access to the Internet, you can download HandiSTATUS from the site of the Office International des Epizooties, at the following address:

<http://www.oie.org>

HandiSTATUS is a computer application, the development of which is the result of collaboration between the IICA (Interamerican Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture), OIE, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and WHO (World Health Organization).

All the data in the central OIE database on the frequency of animal diseases and the control measures applied in Member Countries are integrated into HandiSTATUS together with the *International Animal Health Code*.

Note that the 1996 issues of *Disease Information* can be consulted on-line at the same site.

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