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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN CANADA
Wildlife

Text of a fax received on 7 October 1996 from Dr N.G. Willis, Delegate of Canada to the OIE:

S. R. - 1

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 16 September 1996.

Estimated date of first infection: end of August 1996.

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

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Bowmanville, Ontario, approximately 70 km east of Toronto, north shore of Lake Ontario.

Comments concerning affected population: a single wild bird was found with clinical signs. It was a double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), which was brought to a bird rehabilitation centre to be treated. It died from the disease. This is the only cormorant that has been submitted this year for suspicion of Newcastle disease.

Comments concerning diagnosis: diagnosis was confirmed at the Animal Disease Research Institute (Hull, Quebec) on 30 September 1996. Intracerebral pathogenicity index was 1.38.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: isolates with similar indices of pathogenicity were reported in 1990, 1992 and 1995 in cormorants. In the previous experiences, there was no extension to the domestic poultry population and there is no evidence of involvement of domestic poultry in the present case.

Control measures taken to date: quarantine of the rehabilitation centre and investigation of contacts with additional sampling as required. Canada's poultry industry is being informed with updated factsheets on Newcastle disease. All regions will be alerted to increase vigilance and to report any suspicious case.

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EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS IN MEXICO

Translation of a fax received on 9 October 1996 from Dr A.O. Flores Hernández, Director General of Animal Health Department, Secretariat for Agriculture, Animal Production and Rural Development, Mexico City:

S. R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 1 October 1996 (see *Disease Information*, **9** [38], 148).

Final date of this report period: 9 October 1996.

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Aldama municipality, State of Tamaulipas.

It was confirmed that the animals affected had acquired the Eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE) virus. Out of 106 sick equids, 92 animals died, the last case being recorded on 4 October 1996.

The sick animals have been detected within a radius of 15 km in 35 ranches with a population of 840 horses (focal area). The remainder of Aldama municipality, with an estimated total population of 6,000 equids, is considered as the perifocal area.

The programme of vector control within the focal and perifocal areas is being continued, as is the epidemiological investigation being carried out by the Public Health Department. To date, no human cases have been detected.

The ban on movement of horses within the State of Tamaulipas or to the remainder of the country is being maintained.

As a preventive measure, from the first report of the outbreak a programme of vaccination against Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis was initiated, in which 6,272 equids from the focal and perifocal areas were immunised. Once the diagnosis was confirmed, a new programme of vaccination was established with a specific EEE vaccine for 10,000 equids within the affected municipality and in three neighbouring municipalities as a buffer region.

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