

Contents

Newcastle disease in Finland: lifting of sanitary measures	13
Old World screwworm (<i>Chrysomyia bezziana</i>) in Iraq	14
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Germany	15

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN FINLAND
Lifting of sanitary measures

Text of a fax received on 17 January 1997 from Dr Saara Reinius, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki:

Follow-up report No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 24 September 1996.

Final date of this report period: 17 January 1997.

An outbreak of Newcastle disease occurred in September 1996 in Helsinki Zoo, located on an island close to Helsinki (see *Disease Information*, 9 [37], 142), in a unit where injured wild fauna was treated. The unit was isolated from other activities of the zoo and had its own personnel. A goosander (*Mergus merganser*) was brought into the unit on 18 August 1996 and died on 7 September 1996. The bird was subjected to a routine postmortem virological examination and paramyxovirus-1 (PMV-1) was isolated on 23 September. The intracerebral pathogenicity index was 1.37 (as determined by the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Addlestone, United Kingdom, which is an OIE Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease).

The other 12 birds kept in the unit showed no clinical signs of disease. Two of them were serologically positive for PMV-1. In postmortem virus isolation they were negative.

Virus isolation and serology were performed in accordance with Council Directive 92/66/EEC, Annex III (virus isolation in embryonated eggs and haemagglutination inhibition test) at the Veterinary and Food Research Institute, Helsinki.

The birds in other parts of the zoo were screened for the presence of the PMV-1 infection. Serological tests were performed on 117 birds. Low positive titres (1:16 - 1:64) were detected in 14 geese. These titres were not connected to an active infection since the paired samples did not show any rise in titres. The geese were killed and subjected to postmortem virus isolation with negative results.

Virus isolation was attempted in a total of 70 birds, with negative results (42 postmortem organ samples and 28 cloacal swabs).

All the birds kept in the infected unit were killed and destroyed after laboratory examinations. The unit was cleaned and disinfected and the zoo was placed under official restrictions. No evidence of PMV-1 infection was detected in any other part of the zoo. The restrictions were lifted on 17 December 1996 after the completion of screening.

The zoo will no longer take in injured wild fauna.

No signs of PMV-1 infection have been detected in wild birds passed for examination from other parts of Finland.

OLD WORLD SCREWWORM (CHRYSONYIA BEZZIANA) IN IRAQ

Text of a fax received on 20 January 1997 from Dr Fadhil Abbas Jassim, Director General, State Board of Veterinary Services, Yarmook:

Follow-up report No. 3

Final date of previous report period: 28 November 1996 (see Disease Information, 9 [45], 174).

Final date of this report period: 31 December 1996.

Estimated date of first infection: August 1996.

Number of separate outbreaks identified so far: nine (9).

Geographical identification of the new outbreak:

9/96. Mutrhanna Province.

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
9/96	bov	...	1,802	...	...	...
	ovi	...	1,604	...	...	...
	equ	...	2,935	...	...	...
	avi	...	823	...	...	...
	can	...	693	...	...	...
	other		189			

Comments concerning affected population: disease involved local and exotic breeds of animals owned by farmers in villages or in dairy farms. Furthermore, 15 humans (especially children) were affected.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: the manner in which the screwworm fly entered the country is not yet known.

Control measures taken to date:

- Movement of animals from or into the infested area has been prohibited.
- All infested animals have been treated and kept under daily observation.
- All livestock in, or adjacent to, high risk areas has been treated with insecticide to reduce the risk of infestation.

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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN GERMANY

Text of a fax received on 22 January 1997 from Dr N. Voetz, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

Emergency report

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, postmortem and laboratory.

Number of cases confirmed since 1 January 1997: one (1).

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Nordrhein-Westfalen Land.

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
1/97	bov	8	1	1	7	0

Comments concerning affected population: a cow of the Galloway breed, born in July 1992.

Comments concerning diagnosis: diagnosis made by the Federal Research Centre for Virus Diseases of Animals, Tübingen, using histopathology and Western blot.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: maternal transmission cannot be excluded, as the infected cow originated from a Galloway cow imported from the United Kingdom in 1990.

Control measures taken to date: the remaining 7 animals were slaughtered on 22 January 1997 and their carcases will be destroyed.

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