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**AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS IN BURKINA FASO
Clinical suspicion**

Emergency report

Translation of the text of a fax received on 7 March 1997 from Dr G. Poda, Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Ouagadougou:

Nature of diagnosis: clinical.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 15 January 1997.

Estimated date of first infection: December 1996.

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Kossi province (in the west of the country)	several villages
Yatenga province (in the north-west of the country)	"
Soum province (in the north of the country)	"

Description of affected population: disease affects donkeys and horses.

Total number of susceptible animals in the affected provinces: approx. 80,000 donkeys and 10,000 horses.

Epidemiology:

A. Source of agent / origin of infection: the disease was apparently introduced into the provinces through foreign workers who came to Burkina Faso with draught donkeys.

B. Mode of spread: the disease has spread rapidly as donkeys are the most common means of transport in these areas.

Control measures during reporting period: control of donkey movements; samples have been sent to a European laboratory for identification of the pathogen; emergency measures to vaccinate all horses and donkeys in the zone are envisaged.

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN GERMANY
The country maintains its free status

Follow-up report No. 1

Text of a fax received on 12 March 1997 from Dr N. Voetz, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

End of previous report period: 22 January 1997.

End of this report period: 12 March 1997.

With regard to the case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in one Galloway animal reported in *Disease Information*, **10** (4), 15, doubts were raised as to the animal's pedigree and origin which were originally reported.

Genetic examinations to clarify the identity of the Galloway animal that died of BSE have now confirmed that the animal had been imported from the United Kingdom.

The Galloway animal that suffered from BSE was born in the United Kingdom on 29 March 1989 and imported into Germany in February 1990.

Any infection of the animal in Germany through infected meat-and-bone meal can be ruled out.

Diagnosis:

A. Diagnostic tests used: micro satellite examinations with 17 markers and examinations of the mitochondrial DNA, in parallel in two independent scientific laboratories.

B. Laboratories where diagnosis was made: Veterinarian Institute of the University of Göttingen and Institute for Molecular Biology Diagnostics, Bonn.

Thus, according to Article 3.2.13.2. of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*, Germany continues to be free from BSE.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM / NORTHERN IRELAND

Follow-up report No. 4

Text of a fax received on 13 March 1997 from Dr K.C. Meldrum, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Surbiton:

End of previous report period: 28 February 1997 (see Disease Information, 10 [10], 43).

End of this report period: 13 March 1997.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
County Armagh	3
County Antrim	5

Total number of outbreaks identified since 1 January 1997: nineteen (19) farms.

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks:

- Outbreaks in Armagh: broiler flocks located within the 10-km surveillance zone around a previous outbreak.
- Outbreaks in Antrim: various flocks (broilers, laying hens, broiler breeders) located within the 10-km surveillance zone around a previous outbreak.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
323,800	28,450	6,600	317,200	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Veterinary Science Division, Belfast.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** inhibition haemagglutination test, fluorescent antibody test, intracerebral pathogenicity index. For two of the flocks in Armagh: precautionary slaughter; disease later confirmed by virus isolation.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** neighbouring outbreaks.
- B. Mode of spread:** windborne spread.

Control measures during reporting period: stamping out.

Note from the OIE Central Bureau: in future, information on Newcastle disease in Northern Ireland will no longer be published in Disease Information but will appear in the OIE Bulletin, since the status of the disease in Northern Ireland no longer corresponds to the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 of Article 1.2.0.3. of the International Animal Health Code.

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