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SHEEP POX IN BULGARIA
The Delegate declares his country free

Text of a fax received on 17 March 1997 from Dr N.T. Belev, Delegate of Bulgaria to the OIE:

At the end of 1995, on the basis of the Law of Veterinary Activity, the National Veterinary Service developed a contingency plan for protection against sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria. This contingency plan comes into force in the event of a suspected or reported outbreak. Under the existing legislation, the disease is notifiable. Control of the prophylactic measures and protection against the disease are carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the National Veterinary Service. All the infected and in-contact animals in the reported outbreaks, or the animals exposed to the risk of infection by the poxvirus, as well as the products from such animals, are destroyed and their owners financially compensated. All the expenses related to compensation of owners and to the measures for the eradication of the outbreaks are covered by the State budget. The size of the infected zones and zones at risk and the related measures for prophylaxis and protection are fixed according to the trade contacts and the geographical conditions.

In 1996, constant border control was established in the villages neighbouring Turkey, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and FRY (Serbia and Montenegro). Thirty-five animal health inspectors were appointed in the regions at risk for daily observation and control of the domestic animal movements within the 2-km buffer zone. Regular clinical examinations for the disease were carried out on the sheep and goat herds, as well as serological examinations for each herd. A total of 5,826 planned serological examinations were done for sheep pox and goat pox.

***Planned serological examinations for sheep pox and goat pox
in the border regions of Bulgaria in 1996***

Region	District	No. of examinations
Haskovo	Haskovo	1,555
	Kardjali	250
Total		1,805
Burgas	Burgas	313
	Jambol	2,354
	Sliven	111
Total		2,778
Plovdiv	Plovdiv	50
	Smolyan	1,193
Total		1,243
Total for the country		5,826

The compulsory clinical examinations carried out by State veterinarians resulted in the discovery and elimination of outbreaks in their early stages in Burgas and Haskovo regions (see *Disease Information*, vol. 9, Nos. 1, 26, 27, 33, 38):

Date of reporting	Region	District	Village	Total no. of holdings	Total no. of sheep	Total no. of goats	No. of infected holdings	No. of clinical cases	No. of animals destroyed
2 Jan. 96	Burgas	Sozopol	Rossen	165	1,169	1,326	1	1	44
15 July 96	Haskovo	Svilengrad	Capitan Andreevo	234	1,176	162	37	31	264
26 Aug. 96	Haskovo	Svilengrad	Pastrogor	127	596	142	2	18	89
26 Sep. 96	Haskovo	Stara Zagora	Kozarevets	64	958	73	3	3	12
Total				590	3,899	1,703	43	53	409

Epidemiological investigations showed that these were primary outbreaks and therefore unrelated. No secondary outbreaks were reported.

The National Veterinary Service of Bulgaria hereby states that the sheep pox and goat pox situation is completely under control in Bulgaria thanks to the strict measures applied for the eradication of the outbreaks. These measures included the following:

- stamping out of all infected herds,
- serological examination of healthy herds,
- non vaccination policy,
- creation of protection and surveillance zones around the outbreaks,
- strict movement control.

Clinical examinations are still being carried out despite the fact that six months have already elapsed since the eradication of the final pox outbreak.

In surveillance and protection zones, in addition to the clinical examinations, serological tests were carried out in all herds, with negative results for poxvirus antibodies.

Serological examinations for sheep pox and goat pox around the outbreaks

Location of outbreaks			Zone		Total
Region	District	Village	Protection	Surveillance	
Burgas	Sozopol	Rossen	179	0	179
Haskovo	Svilengrad	Capitan Andreevo	285	152	437
Haskovo	Svilengrad	Pastrogor	207	116	323
Haskovo	Stara Zagora	Kozarevets	652	878	1,530
Total			1,323	1,146	2,469

All healthy herds in the area around the outbreaks and in the protection zone were bathed in disinfectant solutions with antiviral action.

Since the beginning of the lambing season in Haskovo and Burgas regions, all newborn lambs are placed under veterinary control. Each diseased or dead lamb is registered, with a view to complete protection against sheep pox and goat pox.

The premises and establishments for storing and processing of skins and wools are placed under veterinary control. The raw materials received therein are accompanied by veterinary certificates issued by a State veterinarian.

On the basis of the measures taken and the results achieved in controlling and eradicating sheep pox and goat pox in compliance with Article 2.1.10.2. of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*, and as a result of the expiry of the six-month period since the last case in Bulgaria, we consider it justifiable that Bulgaria should be given the status of a country free from sheep pox and goat pox.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN TAIPEI CHINA

Emergency report

Text of a fax received on 20 March 1997 from Dr Happy K. Shieh, Director of the Animal Industry Department, Council of Agriculture, Taipei:

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, post mortem and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 20 March 1997.

Estimated date of first infection: 10 March 1997.

Location	No. of outbreaks
Sinchu Prefecture	2
Taoyuan Prefecture	1

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
sui	1,570	1,570	615

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Taiwan Animal Health Research Institute.

B. Diagnostic tests used: ELISA ⁽¹⁾, RT-PCR ⁽²⁾.

C. Causal agent: foot and mouth disease virus, not typed.

Epidemiology:

A. Source of agent / origin of infection: under investigation.

B. Mode of spread: direct contact.

Control measures during reporting period: vaccination; control programme for the whole country.

(1) ELISA: Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

(2) RT-PCR: Reverse transcriptase - polymerase chain reaction.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever by the Central Bureau of the Office International des Epizooties concerning the legal status of any country or territory mentioned, or its authorities, or concerning the delineation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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