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Foot and mouth disease in Taipei China

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN TAIPEI CHINA

Follow-up report No. 2

Text of a fax received on 30 March 1997 from Dr Happy K. Shieh, Director of the Animal Industry Department, Council of Agriculture, Taipei:

End of previous report period: 21 March 1997 (see *Disease Information*, 10 [13], 55).

End of this report period: evening of 29 March 1997.

<i>Location of outbreaks</i>	<i>No. of farms affected</i>
Changhwa prefecture	104
Chiayi prefecture	23
Hsinchu (Sinchu) prefecture	18
Hsinchu city	1
Kaohsiung city	1
Kaohsiung prefecture	187
Miaoli prefecture	5
Nantou prefecture	8
Pingtung prefecture	482
Taichung prefecture	10
Tainan prefecture	93
Taipei prefecture	10
Taoyuan prefecture	22
Yunlin prefecture	142

To date, no suspected cases of foot and mouth disease (FMD) have been found in species other than swine.

Total number of outbreaks identified since 1 January 1997: 1,106 pig farms.

Total number of animals in the affected farms:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
sui	938,507	199,126	46,050	177,627	0

Diagnosis: most of the cases were tentatively diagnosed according to clinical signs.

Epidemiology:

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

The first farm reported to be infected was run by the owner and his wife. No animal had been introduced into the farm in the preceding month. No other personnel entered the farrowing house during the week prior to the outbreak. The farm is well managed. However, large flocks of sparrows fly in and out freely.

A fishing harbour located 10 km west of the farm is notorious for its smuggling activities. Animal products and the other agricultural products are usually involved in these activities.

B. Other epidemiological details: due to the central mountain range running lengthwise through main island, the disease has not spread to the eastern part of Taiwan; neither have offshore islands been infected.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Stock vaccines, 40,000 doses (O₁, A₂₄, Asia 1), were released for initialising nation-wide vaccination on 21 March 1997. The first shipment of a bivalent (O₁, Asia 1) FMD vaccine, comprising a total of 526,000 doses, arrived on 26 and 27 March 1997 and was immediately distributed throughout the island.
- Stamping-out policy is applied to infected farms.

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