

Contents

Classical swine fever in Benin: suspicion	127
Paramyxoviridae infection in a piggery in Australia	128
Classical swine fever in Costa Rica	129
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Germany: in an imported cow	129
Newcastle disease in Brazil: in an imported ostrich	130

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN BENIN Suspicion

Emergency report

Translation of a fax received on 19 September 1997 from Dr Latifou Sidi, Director of Animal Production, Ministry of Rural Development, Cotonou:

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and post-mortem.

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

Estimated date of first infection: 1 August 1997.

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Cotonou (several districts in the town)	1
Sèmè-Podji subprefecture	1
Sô-Ava subprefecture	1
Dangbo subprefecture	1
Avrankou subprefecture	1
Aguégués subprefecture	1
Ouidah subprefecture	1

Description of affected population: pigs of local breed, in extensive family-run farms.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
88,500	5,000	2,700	...	2,000

Diagnosis: samples have been sent for analysis to the Lyons Veterinary School (France).

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** the probable origin of infection was the importation of infected pigs –slaughtered or alive– from an adjacent country.
- B. Mode of spread:** direct, by contact with free-ranging pigs and by infected or at-risk pigs sold cut-price; indirect, through carcasses thrown into the Nokoué Lake.

C. Other epidemiological details: most of the infected subprefectures, such as Cotonou, are adjacent to the Nokoué Lake, and are situated in a 30-km radius of the capital city, in Atlantic and Ouémé departments (south - southeast of the country).

Control measures during reporting period:

- The technical services of the Ministry of Rural Development (Animal Production Directorate, Bohicon Veterinary Diagnosis Laboratory, Atlantic and Ouémé Regional Centres for Rural Development) are mobilised to control the disease.
- The farmers and the population are made aware by the Press (newspapers, radio and television), and by visits and workshops, of the methods to be followed in order to control the disease.
- Epidemiological screening and surveillance are carried out within and around the outbreaks by emergency national and departmental committees.

*
* *

PARAMYXOVIRIDAE INFECTION IN A PIGGERY IN AUSTRALIA

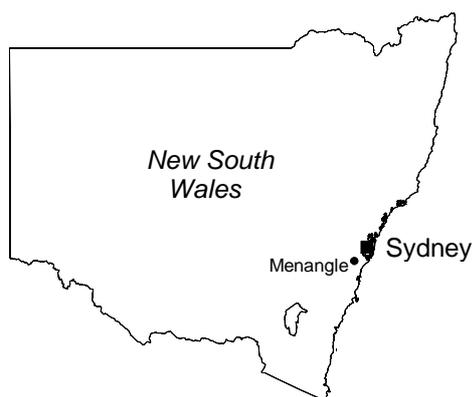
Emergency report

Text of a fax received on 22 September 1997 from Dr G. Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

A virus in the family Paramyxoviridae has been isolated from stillborn piglets with abnormalities of the brain, spinal cord and skeleton at a New South Wales piggery at Menangle (see map below).

Over a 4-month period, starting in mid-April 1997, the affected piggery experienced a substantial reduction in farrowing rate, associated with birth of mummified fetuses and stillborn piglets, some with deformities. No other clinical signs have been detected in pigs of any age.

Measures have been taken to contain infection on the affected farm and to test for its presence at other piggeries in Australia. No evidence of the disease elsewhere in Australia has been detected. Studies to characterise the virus are progressing and experimental transmission trials are underway.



*
* *

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN COSTA RICA

Follow-up report No. 3

Translation of a fax received on 23 September 1997 from Dr J.F. Coronado Faith, Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, San José:

End of previous report period: 17 September 1997 (see *Disease Information*, 10 [37], 125).

End of this report period: 22 September 1997.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Upala canton, Alajuela province	1

Total number of outbreaks identified since 1 January 1997: nine (9).

Total number of animals in the new outbreak:

susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
11	1	0	11	0

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: National Veterinary Services Laboratory (LANASEVE).

B. Diagnostic tests used: ELISA and serology.

Epidemiology: serological sampling is being continued in the field and at the abattoir.

Control measures during reporting period: stamping-out; control programme covering the whole country.

*
* *

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN GERMANY In an imported cow

Text of a fax received on 24 September 1997 from Dr N. Voetz, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 22 September 1997.

Location	No. of outbreaks
Bavaria Land	1

Description of affected population: one 6-year old Simmental cow imported from Switzerland in 1995.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
-------------	-------	--------	-----------	-------------

67	1	0	18	0
----	---	---	----	---

Diagnosis: the 18 Swiss animals in the herd were investigated for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) with negative results except for 1 animal which was positive.

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Federal Research Centre for Virus Diseases of Animals, Tübingen.

B. Diagnostic tests used: histopathology and western blot.

History of the diagnosis:

As a preventive measure against animal diseases, legal provisions were adopted under which the responsible authority ordered the slaughter of all cattle which had been imported into Germany from the United Kingdom and Switzerland. All animals slaughtered would be examined for BSE in the process.

On 16 September 1997, within the framework of this cull, BSE-typical changes were detected through the histological examination of the brain of a 6-year old Simmental cow that had been imported from Switzerland into Germany on 1 February 1995. The diagnosis was confirmed by the immunochemical detection of BSE-typical prion protein on 22 September 1997.

The cow in question had given birth to two male calves in Germany on 27 March 1996. One of these calves has been slaughtered in the meantime, while the other animal is currently under official observation for scientific purposes at the Federal Research Centre for Virus Diseases of Animals.

Control measures during reporting period: the 18 Swiss animals were destroyed.

As the diseased animal had been imported, Germany is still deemed to be free from BSE under the regulations of Article 3.2.13.2 of the *International Animal Health Code*.

*
* *

**NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN BRAZIL
In an imported ostrich**

Emergency report

Translation of an e-mail received on 24 September 1997 from Dr A.B. Sathler, Director, Department of Animal Defense, Ministry of Agriculture and Supply, Brasilia:

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

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

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Bragança Paulista, State of São Paulo	1

Description of affected population: one day-old imported ostrich.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
240	1	1	1	0

Diagnosis: the bird was found dead at its arrival at the airport, in the State of São Paulo, on 17 July 1997.

- A. *Laboratory where diagnosis was made:*** Animal Reference Laboratory, Campinas, State of São Paulo.

B. Diagnostic tests used: virus isolation and characterisation; intracerebral and intravenous pathogenicity index; mean death time in embryos; LD50 (lethal dose for 50% of the control group).

C. Causal agent: velogenic strain.

Control measures during reporting period: testing; quarantine and movement control inside the country; control programme covering the whole country.

*
* *

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.

Unless otherwise stated, material published is derived from declarations made to the Central Bureau by the Veterinary Administrations of the countries and territories mentioned.