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**BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN BELGIUM**  
**Follow-up report**

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

*Translation of a fax received on 27 January 1998 from Dr L. Hallet, Counsellor General, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Brussels:*

- The farm where a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was reported (see *Disease Information*, **10** [44], 153) was quarantined as from 24 October 1997.
- The 33 animals present on the premises were slaughtered on 3 November 1997. The heads of all cattle over 24 months of age were examined. All carcasses were incinerated on 6 November.
- The three bovines originating from the herd which had been sold to other farms were also slaughtered, examined and incinerated.
- A total of 19 animals (16 animals from the farm plus the 3 animals sold) were examined. All were found to be negative to the three tests performed on each animal.
- All parents, progeny, collaterals and cohorts of the affected animal are dead.
- No extension of the disease from the affected farm has been reported.
- Vertical transmission and foodborne transmission were ruled out following investigations carried out in the herd of the affected animal and in the herd of its dam:
  - *Vertical transmission:* the dam was slaughtered 15 months after the birth of the affected animal, without ever having shown any clinical signs of BSE and after having calved again in the intervening period.
  - *Foodborne transmission:* tracing-back investigations as far as 1987 showed that neither the affected animal nor its dam were fed with foodstuffs containing meat-and-bone meal. The only protein of bovine origin used was a collagen-based product added to milk powder; however, collagen is not considered to present any risk with regard to BSE transmission.

A survey was also conducted on the entire management of the farm (use of drugs, artificial insemination, etc.).

The hypothesis of a sporadic case seems to have been confirmed by the investigations carried out.

**Conclusion:** Belgium remains a country which presents a minimal, or even insignificant, risk.

## RIFT VALLEY FEVER IN KENYA

(Date of most recent outbreak previously reported: 1989).

### EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of a fax received on 28 January 1998 from Dr R.S. Kimanzi, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing, Nairobi:

**Nature of diagnosis:** clinical and laboratory.

**Date of initial detection of animal health incident:** late December 1997.

**Estimated date of first infection:** mid-December 1997.

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Wajir district (North Eastern Province)	...
Garissa district (North Eastern Province)	...
Isiolo district (Eastern Province)	...
Marsabit (Eastern Province)	...

### Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
bov	244,131	...	143	...	...
cml	309,492	...	831	...	...
ovi	497,140	...	1,602	...	...
cap	456,016	...	1,130	...	...

**Diagnostic test used:** immunofluorescent antibodies.

**Epidemiology:** mortality is reported to be high in young animals. Human beings are also affected and deaths have been reported. However, other diseases, e.g. trypanosomosis, pneumonia, helminthosis, footrot, haemorrhagic septicaemia and stress factors, such as starvation and persistent flooding, have compounded the effect of Rift Valley fever.

**Mode of spread:** the disease started in Wajir district and has spread to other areas beyond the source. Investigations to map the disease spread are in progress. The affected area is normally acacia woodland with sandy soil and is flat. Most of the affected areas are currently inaccessible due to flooding from the ongoing unprecedented "El Niño" rain.

**Control measures during reporting period:** plans for emergency vaccination of livestock are ready. The Veterinary Department is collaborating with the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization and other relevant bodies in the effort to contain the epidemic.

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