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**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BRAZIL**  
**Additional information on the outbreaks in Mato Grosso do Sul**

*Translation of an e-mail received on 24 March 1998 from Dr A.B. Sathler, Director, Department of Animal Defence, Ministry of Agriculture and Supply, Brasilia:*

(Additional information on the outbreaks reported in *Disease Information*, **11** [11], 38-39)

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Porto Murtinho, Mato Grosso do Sul	2 holdings

*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*	2,940	119	0	1,140	1,800
ovi	64	0	0	64	0
sui	16	8	0	16	0

\* fattening cattle.

**Diagnosis:**

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Regional Animal Support Laboratory (LAPA), Recife.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** ELISA and complement fixation test.
- C. Causal agent:** serotype O<sub>1</sub> virus.

**Epidemiology:**

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** illegal introduction of cattle. Investigations are under way to determine the source.
- B. Mode of spread:** animal movements.
- C. Other epidemiological details:** the affected holdings are 20 km apart. Animal movements had taken place between these holdings.

**Control measures during reporting period:** stamping out; quarantine and movement control inside the country; vaccination; screening was carried out within a 25-km-radius area and in all holdings having been in contact through animal movements animals from the outbreaks during the previous 60 days, with negative results.

**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN PARAGUAY**  
**The Delegate declares that his country remains free from the disease**

*Translation of a communication received on 25 March 1998 from Dr S. Garay Román, Deputy Minister for Animal Production, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Production, San Lorenzo:*

Following the occurrence of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Porto Murtinho, Brazil, near the border with Paraguay, the National Animal Health Service of Paraguay (SENACSA) implemented emergency measures at the regional and national levels in order to prevent any introduction of the disease.

An extensive epidemiological survey, based on clinical examinations and interviews with the farmers, ruled out any suspicion of FMD virus activity in Paraguay. Blood samples were collected in the zone at risk and gave negative results to the EITB\* test.

The epidemiological survey was followed up by technicians from the Brazilian Veterinary Services, who corroborated the above conclusions.

Active epidemiological vigilance in the zone at risk will be maintained until it is considered that there is no longer a risk.

\* *electroimmunotransfer blot.*

\*  
\* \*

**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN TURKEY**  
**Isolation of the new antigenic variant of virus type A**

*Text of a fax received on 27 March 1998 from Dr R.P. Kitching, Institute of Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory (OIE World Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease), United Kingdom:*

On 23 December 1996, an advice notice from the OIE World Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease (FMD) warned of the identification of a new variant of FMD virus type A, first isolated from samples originating from Iran in 1996 (see *World Animal Health in 1996*, p 11). This strain differs from any other type A isolate by almost 20% over the region of the 1D (VP1) gene examined and is sufficiently antigenically distinct to conclude that none of the currently available vaccine strains are likely to provide protection.

Examination of isolates of FMD virus type A collected in Turkey during December 1997 and January 1998 has shown that they belong to the same genotype as the recently identified type A isolates from Iran. Antigenic comparisons with established type A vaccine strains confirm that none of the currently available vaccine strains are likely to confer protection. The virus has so far been isolated from samples collected in the province of Malatya in eastern Anatolia and in the province of Kutahya, which forms part of the strategic vaccination zone.

A bivalent O<sub>1</sub> Manisa/A<sub>22</sub> Mahmatli vaccine is currently used to control FMD in Turkey. The continued occurrence of outbreaks due to FMD virus type A in the strategic vaccination zone is consistent with failure of the current type A vaccine strain to provide protection against the new variant. There is now an urgent need to develop new type A vaccine strains capable of providing protection against the new variant to assist control in countries already affected and to prevent further spread.

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