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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 1

Text of a fax received on 25 September 1998 from Dr G. Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

End of previous report period: 21 September 1998 (see *Disease Information*, 11 [38], 132, dated 25 September 1998).

End of this report period: 25 September 1998.

Diagnosis: further investigations have confirmed the virulence of the virus isolated from farms Nos. 1 and 2.

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Australian Animal Health Laboratory.

B. Intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI):

- Farm No. 1: ICPI = 1.6;
- Farm No. 2: ICPI = 1.9.

C. Pathology: pathological examination shows lesions consistent with a neurotropic virus.

D. Gene sequencing studies: gene sequencing studies are continuing, but results to date indicate that the Newcastle disease virus isolates from the first and second infected farms are the same virus.

Epidemiology:

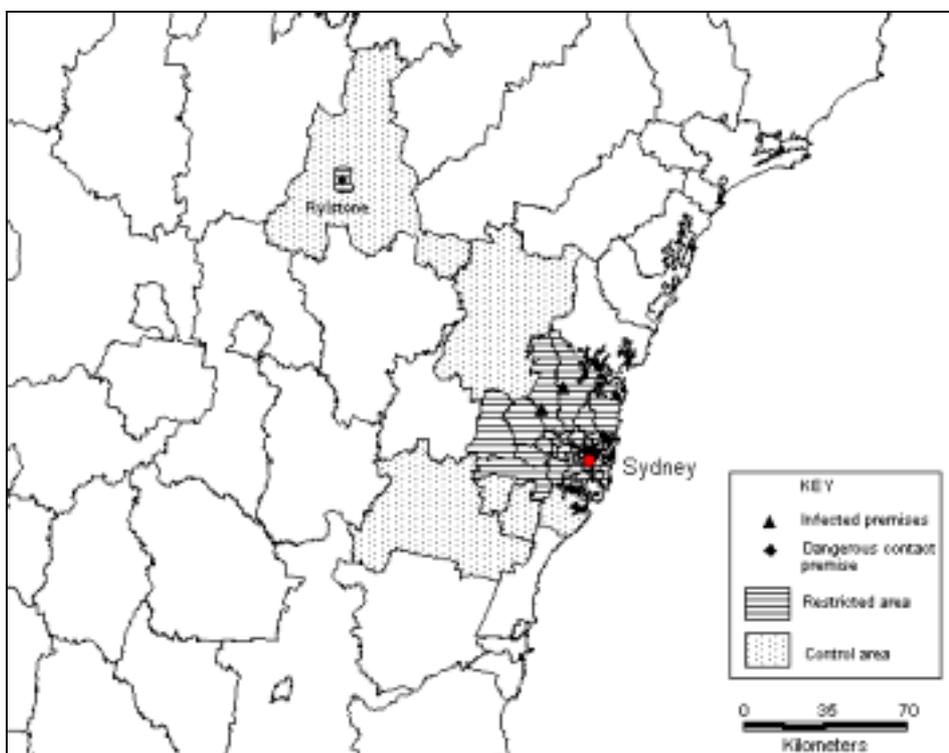
- An earlier indication that samples from feral pigeons from farm No. 1 had Newcastle disease virus infection was wrong. This report was based on preliminary serological testing for HA agent. More detailed studies have found no evidence of Newcastle disease virus in these pigeons, as demonstrated by the lack of Newcastle disease pathology, the lack of Newcastle disease antigen by immunohistology and the fact that no virus has been isolated in eggs inoculated with cloacal swab after six days. Tests continue but the conclusion at this time is that these pigeons are unlikely to be infected with Newcastle disease virus. There is no evidence of infection elsewhere in Australia.
- Comparative studies with other Australian lentogenic isolates and some overseas strains in the genebank suggest that the outbreak strain may have evolved as a mutation from an endemic strain.
- A traceforward of poultry from the first infected farm has indicated a further dangerous contact establishment at Rylstone (32° 58' S - 149° 0' E), which is 130 km north-west of the two quarantined farms (State of New South Wales).

The third farm supplies eggs and meat to the domestic market in the Sydney metropolitan area. No birds, poultry or products have been exported from this property. This farm is isolated and there are no other poultry farms in the area.

Total number of animals in farm No. 3:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
2,500*	2,500*	0

* broilers



Control measures during reporting period:

The following disease control measures have been implemented by government veterinary authorities in New South Wales:

- Imposition of quarantine on the three affected farms and imposition of restrictions on the movement of poultry, birds and poultry products. The third farm at Rylstone, was placed in quarantine on 22 September.
- Declaration of an infected zone ('restricted area') of approximately 3 km around infected farms.
- Declaration of a surveillance zone ('control area') of more than 10 km around the infected farms.
- In farm No. 1, destruction of all geese, ratites and pullets has been completed and feral pigeons have been euthanised. Destruction of remaining layer hens is well advanced.
- On Farm No. 3, pre-emptive destruction of all poultry on 24 September.
- Intensive surveillance and tracing of live birds and products derived from the affected farms. There is close consultation with and good cooperation from the poultry industries, fancy birds and racing pigeon organisations.

The disease has been regionalised according to the principles established by OIE. Therefore no restrictions have been placed on the movement of poultry or poultry products within Australia, except from the surveillance zone around the infected farm, i.e. the rest of Australia should be recognised as a virulent Newcastle disease-free zone.

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INFECTIOUS SALMON ANAEMIA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM / GREAT BRITAIN
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 2

Text of a fax received on 29 September 1998 from Dr J.M. Scudamore, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Surbiton:

End of previous report period: 6 July 1998 (see *Disease Information*, **11** [27], 97, dated 10 July 1998).

End of this report period: 29 September 1998.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of new outbreaks (marine salmon farms)
Loch Nevis	1
Loch Linnhe	2
St Magnus Bay (Shetland Islands)	1

Total number of outbreaks identified since 1 January 1998: ten (10). Additionally, there are 11 farms in the coastal area currently suspected of being infected.

Diagnosis: the diagnosis of infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) was based on mortality patterns, visual signs, histopathology and viral identification.

A. Laboratories: advice and assistance on diagnosis continues to be received from the OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA (National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway) and the EU Reference Laboratory for Fish Diseases (Aarhus in Denmark).

B. Diagnostic tests used: monoclonal antibodies and RT-PCR.

Epidemiology: the epizootic investigations are continuing in order to identify possible sources of the ISA infection and to determine the extent of any spread of the disease.

A. Source of agent / origin of infection: wild fish have been sampled in the coastal area and the results have so far been negative.

B. Mode of spread: it has been determined that, with one exception, there is a connection from each of the sites back to a single point source of infection in Loch Nevis. These connections were established prior to the controls being put in place indicating a long incubation time for the disease.

The single suspected site where a connection has not been established is less than 4 km from an infected site.

Control measures during reporting period:

- The official services have required compulsory slaughter and destruction of all fish, eggs and gametes on the confirmed farms, as required by the EC control measures directive (93/53/EEC).
- Fish of a size suitable for marketing for human consumption and not showing any clinical signs of disease have been processed. All dead fish, fish waste and offal have been disposed of in accordance with the EC animal waste directive (90/667/EEC).
- All confirmed sites will be cleaned, disinfected and fallowed for not less than six months.
- All suspect sites are subject to movement restrictions, disinfection has been put in place at entrances and exits, and all sites are subject to regular inspections by the official services. Where appropriate, early harvest of marketable fish is being encouraged.
- All farms in the wider coastal area remain under official surveillance and are subject to regular health inspections.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN ARGENTINA
Additional information

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: April 1995).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of a fax received on 29 September 1998 from Dr L.O. Barcos, President of the National Department of Agrarian Health (SENASA), Ministry of Economy, Public Works and Services, Buenos Aires:

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 18 August 1998.

Estimated date of first infection: 14 August 1998.

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Marcos Paz, Buenos Aires province	1 farm

Description of affected population: in July 1998, 7-months-old female piglets were introduced onto a holding which had remained empty (without pigs) for more than three months. The piglets had received a booster vaccination before being introduced onto the holding.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
300	60	5	0	1

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** SENASA Central Laboratory.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** indirect immunofluorescence.
- C. Causal agent:** not isolated.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** not determined.
- B. Other epidemiological details:** the agent has not spread, since the animals were kept in a closed shed, in stalls containing from five to eight animals.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Treatment of affected animals. Except for the five animals which died, all the animals treated satisfactorily reacted to antibiotics.
- Control programme covering the whole country.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: November 1997).

Extract from the monthly report of the People's Republic of China for July 1998, received on 25 September 1998 from the Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing:

Outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in July 1998: two (2) districts infected in Yunnan province (in the south of the country).

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RINDERPEST IN RUSSIA Lifting of the restriction measures

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

Text of a fax received on 1 October 1998 from Dr V.M. Avilov, Chief of the Main Veterinary Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Moscow:

End of previous report period: 24 August 1998 (see *Disease Information*, **11** [34], 115, dated 28 August 1998).

End of this report period: 30 September 1998.

Up-dated information on the number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
150	70*	42	7	21

* 54 calves under 18 months old and 16 cows.

Diagnostic tests used: serology, PCR and inoculation tests.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** unknown.
- B. Mode of spread:** common grazing.

All sick animals were slaughtered on 22 August 1998, and no new cases of rinderpest have occurred since that date. All restriction measures were lifted on 1 October 1998.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN MOLDAVIA Additional information

Translation of a fax received on 1 October 1998 from Dr V.M. Bahau, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Kishinev:

End of previous report period: 11 September 1998 (see *Disease Information*, **11** [38], 129, dated 25 September 1998).

End of this report period: 1 October 1998.

No new cases of morbidity or raised mortality have been observed. All the usual disease control measures have been implemented. A total of 51,950 clinically healthy animals have been vaccinated.

**SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE IN ITALY
in Rovigo province**

Translation of a fax received on 2 October 1998 from Dr R. Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

Date of suspicion: 18 September 1998.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 29 September 1998.

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Adria district, Rovigo province, Veneto region	1

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
157	...	0	157*	0

* on 30 September 1998

Epidemiology: primary outbreak.

Control measures during reporting period: control measures provided by National and European regulations.

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