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AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS IN SOUTH AFRICA in the Western Cape Province

(Date of last previously reported outbreak in the province: June 1996).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Summary of two faxes received on 29 March and 7 April 1999 from Dr Paul P. Bosman, Chief Director, Veterinary Services and Livestock Improvement, Pretoria:

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, post-mortem and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 21 March 1999.

Estimated date of first infection: 11 March 1999.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Stellenbosch district, Western Cape province	1

Description of affected population: horses on a total of 11 neighbouring properties located between 33° 53' and 33° 58' S and between 18° 47' and 18° 55' E.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
485	21	20

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:*** Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory and Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:*** antigen capture ELISA.

Epidemiology: under the terms of the Animal Diseases Act, Act 35 of 1984, the Western Cape Province is a controlled area for African horse sickness (AHS). This area is divided into a free zone, a surveillance zone (buffer area) and a protection zone. The outbreak in the Stellenbosch district has occurred within the AHS surveillance zone, between approximately 35 and 50 km from the AHS free zone.

A. Source of agent / origin of infection: on 3 March 1999, two horses were moved illegally from the Free State Province into the AHS surveillance zone of the Western Cape Province (Stellenbosch district). They had no health or vaccination certification. Between 12 and 15 March, one of the two horses showed AHS clinical signs. It recovered. On 21 March, a horse on a nearby property died acutely.

B. Mode of spread: insect borne.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Movement control instituted in the surveillance zone in the districts of: Stellenbosch, Strand, Somerset West, Paarl and Wellington.
- Vaccination campaign instituted in these districts.
- All exports of horses from South Africa have been suspended.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN JORDAN

(Date of last outbreak previously reported to the OIE: April 1996).

Extract from the report of Jordan for January 1999 received on 5 April 1999 from Dr Asaad Abu Al-Ragheb, Director of the Veterinary Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Amman:

Number of outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in January 1999: thirty-four (34).

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	1,536	135	2	0	0
ovi	7,785	1,522	179	0	0
cap	563	176	14	0	0

Causal agent: virus type O.

Extract from the report of Jordan for February 1999 received on 5 April 1999 from Dr Asaad Abu Al-Ragheb, Director of the Veterinary Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Amman:

Number of outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in February 1999: forty-seven (47).

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	1,130	156	15	0	0
ovi	27,285	2,921	512	0	0
cap	1,758	465	60	0	0

Causal agent: virus type O.

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PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS IN JORDAN

(Date of last outbreak previously reported to the OIE: August 1994).

Extract from the report of Jordan for February 1999 received on 5 April 1999 from Dr Asaad Abu Al-Ragheb, Director of the Veterinary Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Amman:

Number of outbreaks of peste des petits ruminants in February 1999: three (3).

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
ovi	400	10	0	0	0

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SHEEP POX AND GOAT POX IN JORDAN

(Date of last outbreak previously reported to the OIE: April 1994).

Extract from the report of Jordan for February 1999 received on 5 April 1999 from Dr Asaad Abu Al-Ragheb, Director of the Veterinary Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Amman:

Total number of outbreaks of sheep pox and goat pox in February 1999: four (4).

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
ovi	1,350	44	0	0	0
cap	85	1	0	0	0

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN MOROCCO Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 3

Summary of the translation of a fax received on 5 April 1999 and an e-mail received on 6 April 1999 from Dr Abdelhaq Tber, Director of Animal Production and Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Sea Fisheries, Rabat:

End of previous report period: 15 March 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [10], 29, dated 19 March 1999).

End of this report period: 5 April 1999.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Ouled Abdoune district, Khouribga province, Chaouia-Ouardigha region	2
Ouled Barkat douar, Dar Ouled Zidouh magistrature, Beni Moussa circle, Beni Mellal province, Tadla-Azilal region	1

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: beef cattle herds. The affected animals are young bulls aged 18 to 24 months.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
bov	40	18	0	18	22

Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Biopharma.

Epidemiology:

After Aid El Adha, on 31 March 1999, an outbreak occurred in Ouled Abdoune district (Khouribga province), in an establishment whose owner had acquired the week before a young bull from Fqih Ben Salah, located in the area covered by the Regional Agricultural Development Office (ORMVA) for Tadla-Azilal region.

All seven of the owner's cattle presented foot and mouth disease (FMD) lesions.

Investigations conducted by the aforementioned ORMVA in Beni Mellal province indicated that an outbreak of the disease occurred on 3 April 1999 at Ouled Barkat douar, Dar Ouled Zidouh magistrature, Beni Moussa circle.

The occurrence of the disease in the centre of the country is probably related to movements of infected animals from Oriental region.

Control measures during reporting period:

A. Outbreaks in Khouribga: regulatory veterinary sanitary measures were immediately implemented, namely:

- destruction of the affected cattle with compensation,
- destruction of litter and disinfection of affected cowsheds,
- adoption of a gubernatorial order designating the FMD infected area, and imposing a ban on the movement of cattle out of the area;
- mass vaccination within a 10-km radius of the outbreak and the provision of emergency vaccination cover throughout the province to strengthen the protection of the cattle population.

B. Outbreak in Beni Mellal: the affected animal was destroyed on 4 April 1999 and the declaration of an infected zone was adopted on 5 April 1999 with implementation of regulatory sanitary measures.

Vaccination:

Following the appearance of outbreaks outside the primary infection zone in Oujda, vaccination will immediately be extended to include the cattle population in all the provinces in the Kingdom and will be strengthened in the buffer zone so as to avoid any spread of infection. To date, over 550,000 doses of vaccine have been distributed and 550,000 more will be distributed on 9 April 1999.

It is important to emphasise that all the cases have involved young cattle born after the last vaccination, carried out in the entire national cattle population in November 1997. A single case has occurred in an adult animal, which had not been vaccinated in 1997.

As a priority, the northern provinces (Tanger, Tétouan, Larache, Chefchaouen, Sidi Kacem) were integrated into the vaccination programme from 5 April 1999. Vaccination throughout the remainder of the Kingdom will be carried out from 9 April. The date limit set for completing the mass vaccination campaign is 10 May 1999.

This campaign will be conducted by all the Veterinary Services in association with authorised private sector veterinarians and will include all cattle old enough to be vaccinated.

One month later, young cattle will receive a booster vaccination to consolidate their immunity.

The generalised vaccination campaign will be followed by a national serological survey, aimed at evaluating the level of immunity to FMD in the national bovine population. It will be accompanied by continuous close surveillance of the health status of the national herd so as to detect any anomalies and therefore be able to take appropriate action.

AVIAN INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS IN MADAGASCAR

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of a fax received on 6 April 1999 from Dr Andriambololona Ratovo, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Animal Production, Antananarivo:

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: February 1999.

Estimated date of first infection: December 1998.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Mahitsy (18° 42' S - 47° 20' E), Antananarivo province	1

Description of affected population: improved breed layer flock.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
100,000	11,400	3,420	...	300

Diagnosis: based on the presence of very high antibody titres.

A. Clinical signs: respiratory signs, genital disorders, reduced fertility and hatchability, drop in egg production, discoloured and misshapen eggs, feather loss.

Laboratory where diagnosis was made: FOFIFA-DRZV Diagnostic Laboratory, Ampandrianomby, Antananarivo.

B. Diagnostic tests used: indirect ELISA. Virus isolation and serotyping are due to be carried out.

Epidemiology:

A. Source of agent / origin of infection: undetermined.

B. Mode of spread: horizontal and vertical.

C. Other epidemiological details: prior to this episode, no vaccination against avian infectious bronchitis had been carried out in Madagascar as the disease had never been observed.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Authorisation to import vaccine against avian infectious bronchitis.
- Slaughter of contaminated poultry batches.
- Disinfection with a virucide and restocking one month after depopulation.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA Additional information

EMERGENCY REPORT (CONTD) (see *Disease Information*, **12** [12], 39, dated 2 April 1999).

Summary of two e-mails received on 6 and 7 April 1999 from Dr Gardner Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

End of this report period: 7 April 1999.

Diagnosis: diagnosis has been based on typical clinical signs and postmortem findings, and confirmatory laboratory tests at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong:

- serological tests,
- isolation of a Newcastle disease virus,
- immunohistology,
- studies have determined a pathogenic sequence around the cleavage site of the fusion (F) protein— additional nucleotide sequencing is continuing,
- death of chick embryos at 48-72 hours in primary isolation,
- the chorio-allantoic membrane (CAM) antigen localisation test is progressing,
- the intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI) is currently being determined.

Epidemiology:

- The infected farm is geographically isolated, and is located along a distinct ridge (long, narrow, raised sloping land) system, with only three roads into/out of the area. The area is surrounded by National Parks and State Forests.
- No birds, poultry or products have been exported from this farm. No poultry have been processed in an export abattoir.
- There is no evidence of infection elsewhere in Australia. 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 continue to be recognised as a virulent Newcastle disease-free zone).

Control measures during reporting period: the following disease control measures have been implemented by Government veterinary authorities in New South Wales:

- 25,784 pullets and other ornamental caged birds (15 finches, 6 parrots and 1 cockatiel) on the infected farm have been slaughtered and their carcasses incinerated.
- The farm is currently being decontaminated.
- The farm has been placed in quarantine.
- An infected zone delineated by the boundaries of the farm has been proclaimed.
- A surveillance zone has been imposed around the infected zone encompassing a wedge-shaped ridge area, about 18 km long by 10 km wide, bounded on the east, south and west by deep ravines, and on the north, south and west by National Park/State Forest.
- A comprehensive surveillance programme has been instituted. Surveillance is based on monitoring mortality and production records, serology and dead bird examination.

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