

Contents

Rinderpest in Ethiopia: the Delegate declares a zone of the country "provisionally free" from the disease	53
Q fever in Argentina: in a quarantine station	55
African horse sickness in South Africa: follow-up report	56

RINDERPEST IN ETHIOPIA

The Delegate declares a zone of the country "provisionally free" from the disease

Text of an e-mail received on 23 April 1999 from Dr Wondwosen Asfaw, Team Leader, Veterinary Services Team, Addis Abeba:

Ethiopia declares itself "provisionally free" on a zonal basis, because of the possible threat of reintroduction of rinderpest from neighbouring countries, without which Ethiopia would have declared "provisional freedom" on a country-wide basis.

In view of this declaration Ethiopia has been divided into three zones:

- Zone A – "provisionally free from rinderpest",
- Zone B (B1 and B2) – "surveillance zone",
- Zone C – "sanitary cordon or vaccination zone".

Therefore, in accordance with the OIE document entitled *Recommended Standards for Epidemiological Surveillance for Rinderpest*:

1. Each proposed zone has well-defined boundaries:

- Zone A includes 519 districts, i.e. 94% of the country's surface area and 92% of the cattle population.
- Zone B includes 40 districts, i.e. 5% of the country's surface area and 7% of the cattle population.

Zone B1 (western surveillance zone) includes Tongo district (Beneshangul Gumuz Regional State), Akobo, Jikawo, Itang, Gambela, Abobo, Godere, Jor And Gog districts (Gambela Regional State), Begi, Jimma, Gidami, Anfilo, Metu, Bure, Ale and Nono district (Oromia Regional State) and Yeki, Masha, Anderacha, Gesha, Chena, Gimbo, Menjiwo, Telo, Decha, Ela, Isara Tocha, Maneka Guna, Loma Bosa, Melekosa, Gofa Zuria, Basketo, Zala Ubamale, Selamago, Bako Gazer and Hammer Bena districts (SNNP⁽¹⁾ Regional State).

The demarcation of Zone B1 and Zone A is based on the Sagam in the south-east, the Gojeb river in the central part and the Baro and Dabus rivers in the north. For the remaining part, areas with a low density of cattle (due to trypanosomosis) are taken as a boundary.

Zone B2 includes Moyale, Dolo, Dolo Bay, Afker and Bare districts (Somali Regional State).

- Zone C includes six districts (Kuraz, Surma, Dizi, Menit, Bench and Sheko in SNNP Regional State), i.e. 1% of the country's surface area and 1% of the cattle population. The demarcation between Zone C and Zone B is based on the Omo river in the east and the Gilo river in the north.

2. No rinderpest outbreaks have been detected in any of the zones for at least two years. The last two outbreaks of rinderpest observed in Ethiopia were:
 - in September 1995 in Temejayaze, Bench Zone of the SNNP Regional State;
 - in November 1995 in Mehoni, Southern Zone of Tigray Regional State.
3. All rinderpest vaccination has been stopped in Zones A and B, with effect from 1 May 1999. In fact most vaccination was stopped in most parts of the country a long time ago.
4. Both the existing clinical surveillance and disease reporting systems for rinderpest are adequate to detect clinical disease if present. All clinical evidence suggestive of rinderpest within the zone is investigated by field/clinical and laboratory methods. Laboratory tests in place include agar-gel immunodiffusion test, IC-ELISA⁽²⁾ and PCR⁽³⁾.

If rinderpest had been present it would easily have been discovered by epidemiological surveillance conducted in these areas.

In the past years Ethiopia has conducted active disease surveillance in over 250 out of the 565 districts to ensure that rinderpest has effectively been eradicated from these districts.

Sero-surveillance conducted over the past three years (on average 12,000 sera per year) indicates that rinderpest has indeed been eradicated from Ethiopia.

5. Effective methods are in force to prevent the reintroduction of the disease into Zone A from other parts of the country and from other countries. In the south-eastern part of the country a surveillance and emergency preparedness system has been put in place to detect rinderpest at an early stage and to eliminate it immediately were it to be introduced.

In view of the foregoing, the Government of Ethiopia declares that Zone A is "provisionally free from rinderpest", with effect from 1 May 1999.

(1) SNNP: Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples.

(2) IC-ELISA: immunocapture – enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

(3) PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

*
* *

Q FEVER IN ARGENTINA in a quarantine station

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of a fax received on 27 April 1999 from Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, President of the National Service of Agrifood Health and Quality (SENASA), Ministry of Economy, Public Works and Services, Buenos Aires:

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 5 April 1999.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
official quarantine station, Buenos Aires (federal capital)	1

Description of affected population: imported cow, pregnant, kept at the official quarantine station since its arrival in the country.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	1	2*	0	2*	0

* includes the calf.

Diagnosis:

- A. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** SENASA⁽¹⁾ Central Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Martinez, Buenos Aires province.
- B. **Diagnostic tests used:** complement fixation (CF) and indirect fluorescent antibody (IFA).

Epidemiology:

- A. **Source of agent / origin of infection:** imported animal.
- B. **Mode of spread:** limited to the case described above.
- C. **Other epidemiological details:** the animal was kept isolated during all the quarantine period. The calving occurred on the said premises.

Control measures during reporting period: stamping out.

Considering that the disease has not been diagnosed among the national population and in view of the control measure applied, Argentina considers that its status of freedom from Q fever should be maintained.

(1) SENASA: *Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria* (National Animal Health Services of Argentina).

AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS IN SOUTH AFRICA
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 1

Text of a fax received on 30 April 1999 from Dr Emily Mogajane, Director, Animal Production and Health, Pretoria:

End of previous report period: 6 April 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [13], 41, dated 9 April 1999).

End of this report period: 30 April 1999.

A total of eight additional cases in six additional properties have been registered in the Stellenbosch district, in the African horse sickness (AHS) surveillance zone of the Western Cape province, about 35-40 km from the free zone. All 17 infected properties are located within a radius of about 15 km, between 33° 50' and 34° 1' 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	29	24	4	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory, Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science and Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** antigen capture ELISA, virus isolation and serotyping.
- C. Causal agent:** orbivirus serotype 7.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** the two horses moved illegally on 3 March 1999 into the Stellenbosch district came from the Frankfort district of the Free State Province.
- B. Mode of spread:** the spread of this disease seems to be in a north-south direction. The disease is insect-borne.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Movement control, quarantine of horses in the districts of Stellenbosch, Strand, Somerset West, Paarl and Wellington.
- Blanket vaccination of horses in these districts.
- All exports of horses from the AHS free zone of South Africa have been suspended. Exports of horses from the rest of South Africa is not affected.

*
* *

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.