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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN CANADA
Invalidation of outbreak detection

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

Text of a fax received on 14 May 1999 from Dr Norman G. Willis, Executive Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Winnipeg:

End of previous report period: 30 April 1999 (see *Disease Information*, 12 [17], 57, dated 7 May 1999).

End of this report period: 13 May 1999.

New diagnostic findings

In accordance with its obligations under section 1c) of Article 1.2.0.3 of the *International Animal Health Code*, Canada reported the finding of a pathogenic strain of Newcastle disease arising from a duplicate tissue culture supernatant submission originating from a non federal laboratory in the province of Quebec.

Repeat testing performed by the National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases in Winnipeg on the original frozen tissues and allantoic fluid from which the viral agent was initially isolated has given negative results after two passages in embryonated chicken eggs. The application of electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, haemagglutination inhibition testing and isolation techniques on cloacal swabs and caecal tonsils following extensive sampling and direct submission from the suspect premises has failed to confirm the presence of virus on the said premises. In addition, 50 sentinel chickens that were placed on the suspected infected premises have shown no clinical signs of any disease eight days following their placement on the farm.

Alternative paths of investigation continue in the laboratory in order to explain the original finding.

Evaluation of the situation at the farm

A risk assessment was made by the Animal and Plant Health Risk Assessment Network. It was concluded, based on intensive surveillance within the quarantine flocks and the epidemiological investigation, that it is very unlikely ($p = 0.00046$ - 95% confidence level) that Newcastle disease virus is present on the farm.

After review and consideration of all available historical, clinical, epidemiological and laboratory evidence, it was concluded that the situation at the farm must be interpreted as negative. It was not possible to demonstrate the presence or even the passage of the Newcastle disease virus in the suspect flock. There is no reasonable justification for continuing to impose the present control measures that were originally put in place to prevent the potential spread of the disease from a suspected infected premises.

Control measures

Preventative quarantine measures are being lifted from all premises. The initial suspect premises will continue to be closely monitored as a precautionary measure until the sentinel chickens have completed a 21-day period on site and receipt of results pending from the Weybridge (United Kingdom) Reference Laboratory.

Conclusion

Extensive laboratory analysis, surveillance and field investigation have reaffirmed that Canada's poultry flocks are free and remain free from Newcastle disease.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN TURKMENISTAN

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

Extract from the report of Turkmenistan for the first quarter of 1999, received on 14 May 1999 from Dr Gazak K. Gochmuradov, Head, Veterinary Directorate, Main State Veterinary Inspectorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Ashgabat:

No. of outbreaks of foot and mouth disease during the first quarter of 1999: five (5).

Location of the outbreaks:

Farap district (in the north-eastern part of the country)
Sakar district (in the north-eastern part of the country)
Sayat district (in the north-eastern part of the country)
Ghiaver district (in the southern part of the country)

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RINDERPEST IN MAURITANIA

The Delegate declares the country "provisionally free" from this disease

Translation of an e-mail received on 15 May 1999 from Dr Mokhtar Fall, Deputy Director, Development of Agricultural and Pastoral Ressources, Ministry of Rural Development and Environment, Nouakchott:

Rinderpest has been absent from Mauritania since 1987, no outbreaks having been reported since that date.

This situation has been achieved through the implementation of annual campaigns which, during the period from 1996 to 1998, received considerable support from the PARC⁽¹⁾ project.

On the strength of this result, the decision to halt vaccination against the disease was taken in May 1998. A surveillance system has also been set up through the Mauritanian animal disease epidemiological surveillance network (REMEMA), created by Order No. 143/MDRE of 19 April 1999.

Mauritania thus declares itself provisionally free from rinderpest and is committed to implementing the OIE "pathway" for the status of rinderpest free country.

(1) PARC: Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

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