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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 4

Extract from an e-mail received on 4 June 1999 from Dr Gardner Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

End of previous report period: 6 May 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [17], 59, dated 7 May 1999).

End of this report period: 4 June 1999.

New outbreaks:

Two more farms in the *infected zone* have been identified as infected. This brings the total number of confirmed infected farms to nine commercial farms within the proclaimed *infected zone*.

- Farm No. 8: laboratory samples collected during routine surveillance detected infection at the same time (5 May 1999) that the broilers were scheduled for destruction. Nervous signs were detected on the day of destruction.
- Farm No. 9: this outbreak was presumptively diagnosed based on clinical signs and the birds were destroyed (27 April 1999). Laboratory specimens later confirmed the diagnosis.

Retrospectively, in the absence of overt clinical disease, virulent virus was isolated from one small non-commercial flock and two additional commercial farms:

- The small non-commercial flock was located within the *infected zone* and was close to one of the infected premises. The infection was identified after birds on the farm had been destroyed on 7 May 1999.
- The two commercial farms where the virus was isolated were both within the proclaimed *surveillance zone* and close to the boundary of the proclaimed *infected zone*. All birds from these farms had been destocked by processing. As with all farms in the *surveillance zone*, the products from these farms were subjected to approved heat treatment. Tracing of products from these farms confirmed that they had been processed according to approved protocols at quality-assured outlets.

Epidemiology: epidemiological studies are continuing and a number of isolates detected during surveillance will be investigated as part of the epidemiological analysis of the outbreak.

- All clinically infected farms are within the proclaimed *infected zone*.
- There is no evidence of virulent Newcastle disease outside the *infected* and *surveillance zones*.

Intensive surveillance is being maintained in both the *infected zone* and the surrounding *surveillance zone*, and epidemiological investigations are continuing. Virulent Newcastle disease has been regionalised according to OIE principles. Therefore, no restrictions have been placed on the movement of poultry or poultry products within Australia, except from the *infected* and *surveillance zones*. The rest of Australia should be recognised as a virulent Newcastle disease free zone. The poultry industry and poultry industry veterinarians have been alerted to the outbreak and are applying increased vigilance to surveillance on poultry farms in other parts of Australia.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Destruction of all the birds on the 32 broiler farms within the proclaimed *infected zone* was completed by 12 May 1999. In addition more than 2,000 aviary and poultry birds on small non-commercial flocks within the *infected zone* were destroyed by 28 May 1999. Over 1,900,000 birds have been destroyed to date and decontamination is continuing on commercial and non-commercial farms in the *infected zone*.
- As an added precaution, restocking in the *infected zone* and *surveillance zone* will be deferred until all broiler farms within the *surveillance zone* have been destocked and approved disinfection has been completed.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN GERMANY
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

Text of a fax received on 7 June 1999 from Dr Werner Zwingmann, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

End of previous report period: 25 May 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [20], 72, dated 28 May 1999).

End of this report period: 7 June 1999.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Weser-Ems district, Lower Saxony	1

Description of affected population in the new outbreak: holding for fattening.

Total number of animals in the new outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
633	20	5	628	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Staatliches Veterinäruntersuchungsamt, Oldenburg.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** virus isolation.

Source of agent / origin of infection: unknown.

Control measures during reporting period:

- the animals have been slaughtered and will be destroyed in rendering plants;
- ban on the movements of animals of susceptible species in an area around the infected holding;
- tracing of animal movements into and out of the infected holding.

RINDERPEST IN CAMEROON
The Delegate declares the country "provisionally free" from this disease

Translation of a fax received on 9 June 1999 from Dr Hamadou Saidou, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Animal Production, Fisheries and Animal Industries, Yaounde:

Report date: 8 June 1999.

Since 1986, no cases of rinderpest have been recorded in Cameroon. Systematic vaccination campaigns for cattle, undertaken since 1983, coupled with serological and epidemiological surveillance, have nevertheless been maintained in order to protect the national herd. Given the special geographical location of Cameroon the aim was also to protect West Africa from any incursion of the disease from East Africa, which up to now has been considered to harbour endemic outbreaks.

Today, the situation has markedly improved in the countries of East Africa and the Chad–Central African Republic sanitary cordon is effectively fulfilling its role.

In view of the foregoing and all the recommendations of the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (OAU-IBAR*), the whole of the territory of Cameroon is hereby declared "provisionally free" of rinderpest.

* OAU: Organization of African Unity – IBAR: Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources.

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