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**BLUETONGUE IN BULGARIA**  
**Follow-up report**

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

*Text of a fax received on 9 July 1999 from Dr Nikola T. Belev, Delegate of Bulgaria to the OIE:*

**End of previous report period:** 7 July 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [26], 94, dated 9 July 1999).

**End of this report period:** 9 July 1999.

**Background**

On 26 June 1999 the regional epidemiologist of Burgas reported to the headquarters of the National Veterinary Service (NVS) about diseased sheep suspected of having bluetongue. A team of experts was immediately sent to the village of Slivarovo, municipality of Malko Tarnovo, Burgas region.

The team carried out an epidemiological investigation. Diseased sheep were slaughtered and samples were taken for laboratory tests.

The clinical, epidemiological and anatomicopathological data suggested bluetongue. The results of the serological tests carried out on 27 June at the Central Laboratory for Exotic Diseases in Sofia by competitive ELISA<sup>(1)</sup> test (bluetongue antibody test kit from the United States of America) showed bluetongue virus antibody titres in some of the samples.

The same samples were checked for foot and mouth disease and were found to be negative.

The village of Slivarovo is situated 500 m from the border with Turkey. The total number of animals present was 246 sheep, 130 goats and 20 cattle. Of the 246 sheep, 53 showed clinical signs. Of the latter, three subsequently died and the remaining 50 were immediately destroyed.

On 29 June 1999 the disease was registered in Brodilovo village, 15 km from the border with Turkey. The total number of animals present was 540 goats and 420 sheep, 15 of which showed clinical signs and were immediately destroyed.

On 1 July the disease was registered in Kosti village, 10 km from the border. The total number of animals present was 90 cattle, 520 goats and 340 sheep, 14 of which showed clinical signs and were immediately destroyed.

The greatest number of diseased animals was registered in Gramatikovo, 12 km from the border. The total number of animals present was 478 goats and 650 sheep, 95 of which showed clinical signs and were immediately destroyed.

The village of Sinemorets is 10 km from the border and the number of animals present was 14 cattle, 170 goats and 330 sheep, five of which were diseased and were immediately destroyed.

### *Epidemiological survey*

A sero-survey was carried out in the neighbouring districts of Yambol and Haskovo, which also share a border with Turkey. No seropositive samples were found.

To date, the disease has been localised within the southern part of Burgas region along the river Veleka. A large-scale sero-survey is envisaged in Burgas region with the aim of detecting all seropositive animals.

### *Control measures*

All NVS offices were immediately placed on alert. An order was issued to the Burgas Regional Veterinary Service (RVS) to undertake the following measures until the conclusion of virological tests:

1. A ban on the movement and trade of ruminants in and through Burgas region.
2. Mass clinical examinations of all ruminants throughout the area and in the neighbouring regions along the border with Turkey.
3. Treatment of all ruminants, premises and pasture areas in the area with insecticide against ectoparasites. The animal premises were treated with an aerosol of insecticide. Mechanical cleansing and disinfection procedures were also carried out. The total surface area of the treated sites (premises) amounts to 38,700 m<sup>2</sup>. The total number of animals treated amounts to 477 cattle and 8,741 small ruminants.
4. Disinfection, insect and rodent control throughout the area. To date, an area totalling 42,000 *decars* of pasture and forest has been treated against culicoides using an insecticide applied from two helicopters.
5. Immediate destruction of all diseased animals, taking of samples, which were then sent for laboratory tests.

On 7 July 1999, the diagnosis of bluetongue was confirmed virologically and the OIE, the FAO<sup>(2)</sup>, the European Commission and all the neighbouring countries were notified.

On 8 July 1999, the Minister of Agriculture issued an Order defining the measures for localisation and eradication of the disease. Three zones were defined in the area: Zone A (infected zone), Zone B (threatened zone) and Zone C (protection zone). Detailed measures have been provided for each of the three zones.

Emergency meetings of the 28 regional epidemic commissions were held throughout the country to implement the measures provided for in the Ministerial Order.

The 28 regional epidemiologists met at the headquarters of the NVS, where a film on bluetongue was shown. They were also instructed to show the film to their colleagues.

All the required measures have been undertaken to localise and eradicate the bluetongue outbreak.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

(2) FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

## FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ZIMBABWE Confirmation of diagnosis

### FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

*Text of an e-mail received on 9 July 1999 from Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Harare:*

**End of previous report period:** 21 June 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [24], 87, dated 25 June 1999).

**End of this report period:** 8 July 1999.

#### **Diagnosis:**

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** South African Foot and Mouth Disease Laboratory.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** PCR on epithelium, virus isolation and ELISA.
- C. Causal agent:** foot and mouth disease virus type SAT3.

**Epidemiology:** the infection remains confined to Mapanza Estate, where 40 new cases were reported.

#### **Control measures during reporting period:**

- Quarantine: Mapanza Estate was immediately put in quarantine. Veterinary personnel are resident at the farm to control movement and carry out disinfection.
- Surveillance: within the framework of the surveillance programme, all cloven hoofed domestic animals (14,258) within a 20-km radius of Mapanza Estate have been examined with no signs of disease being found.
- Movement control: pending further investigations and surveillance, restrictions on movement from, to and within Chiredzi district were imposed.
- Vaccination: a total of 9,377 cattle within a 20-km radius of Mapanza Estate were revaccinated using trivalent SAT 1, 2 and 3 foot and mouth disease vaccine.

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## FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BOTSWANA Invalidation of diagnosis

*Text of an e-mail received on 15 July 1999 from Dr Motshudi V. Raborokgwe, Director of Animal Health and Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Gaborone:*

**Report date:** 15 July 1999.

The suspect samples (see *Disease Information*, **12** [26], 93, dated 9 July 1999) sent to the OIE World Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease (Pirbright, United Kingdom) have tested negative on tissue culture for foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus and antigen. They have also tested negative for genome detection with PCR.

Serum samples sent at the same time to Onderstepoort laboratory (South Africa) have shown massive BVD<sup>(1)</sup> titres, indicating that the lesions seen in the animals were due to the BVD-MD<sup>(2)</sup> complex.

Even though the suspected outbreak was located within the FMD vaccination zone, exports of beef and beef products from Botswana had been voluntarily suspended while investigating the extent of the outbreak and waiting for laboratory results. Exports had been suspended to ensure that the outbreak, had it proved to be FMD, was localised. They will now be resumed and there should be no problem with earlier exports.

(1) BVD: bovine virus diarrhoea.

(2) MD: mucosal disease.

## NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA No further cases

### FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 5

*Extracts from an e-mail received on 15 July 1999 from Dr Gardner Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:*

**End of previous report period:** 4 June 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [22], 79, dated 11 June 1999).

**End of this report period:** 15 July 1999.

No further evidence of clinical disease has been detected in the outbreak area, since the removal or depopulation of approximately 3,900,000 domestic poultry and birds from the *Infected* and *Surveillance Zones*.

Destruction of all the birds on the 32 broiler farms within the proclaimed *Infected Zone* on Mangrove Mountain 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.

As an added precaution, approximately 2,000,000 broilers from all commercial farms in the surrounding *Surveillance Zone* were processed off under permit and quarantine controls. The last commercial farm was destocked on 9 June 1999. As part of the intensive surveillance programme applied to this *Zone*, virulent virus was retrospectively isolated, in the absence of clinical disease, from four more farms in the *Surveillance Zone* (total 6 farms) and close to the boundary of the proclaimed *Infected Zone* (these farms had already been destocked).

As a tactical measure, non-commercial gallinaceous birds and the two small poultry layer flocks in the *Surveillance Zone* are being vaccinated once only with avirulent Australian V4 vaccine (it is not intended to repeat such vaccination or to vaccinate restocked commercial flocks).

Australia has exceeded the requirements of the OIE *International Animal Health Code* chapter for Newcastle disease. All avian flocks in the *Infected Zone* have been stamped out, and farms in both the *Infected* and *Surveillance Zone* were required to be disinfected twice, 14 days apart.

Farms will be progressively eligible for restocking on the basis of completion and audit verification of required procedures. Five commercial farms and 93 small non-commercial farms are now eligible for restocking following successful decontamination audits. The first farms were issued restocking permits on 9 July 1999.

Intensive surveillance is being maintained in both the *Infected* and *Surveillance Zones*, and epidemiological investigations are continuing. A number of isolates detected during surveillance will be investigated as part of the epidemiological analysis of the outbreak.

There is no evidence of virulent Newcastle disease outside the *Infected* and *Surveillance Zones*, and 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.

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