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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN ITALY

The Delegate declares his country, with the exception of Sardinia, free from the disease

Summary of two faxes received on 4 October and 24 December 1999 from Dr Romano Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

Report date: 23 December 1999.

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 2.1.12.2. and 2.1.13.2. of the *International Animal Health Code*, the Italian territory, except the island of Sardinia, can be considered free from African swine fever and classical swine fever, with effect from 30 October 1999.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN ITALY

The Delegate declares his country, with the exception of Sardinia, free from the disease

Summary of two faxes received on 4 October and 24 December 1999 from Dr Romano Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

Report date: 23 December 1999.

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 2.1.12.2. and 2.1.13.2. of the *International Animal Health Code*, the Italian territory, except the island of Sardinia, can be considered free from African swine fever and classical swine fever, with effect from 30 October 1999.

Note from the OIE Central Bureau: a total of four outbreaks of classical swine fever were reported in March 1999 in the regions of Piedmont and Emilia-Romagna.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN PERU

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: August 1999).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of a fax received on 23 December 1999 from Dr Oscar M. Dominguez Falcon, Director General of Animal Health, National Service of Agricultural Health (SENASA), Ministry of Agriculture, Lima:

Report date: 22 December 1999.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 10 December 1999.

Estimated date of first infection: 3 December 1999.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Lurin district, Lima province, Lima department	1

Description of affected population: intensively reared local breed fattening cattle of various ages and both sexes.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
bov	442	6	0	0	6
ovi	2	0	0	0	0
sui	2	0	0	0	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Animal Health Laboratory (SENASA, Lima).
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay).
- C. Causal agent:** virus type A.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** northern border of the country.
- B. Mode of spread:** movements of animals from the northern border.

Control measures during reporting period:

- quarantine of farms and restriction of animal movements in Lurin and Pachacamac districts (Lima province, Lima department);
- vaccination.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA Additional information

Text of a fax received on 24 December 1999 from Dr Gardner Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

End of previous report period: 17 December 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [48], 180, dated 17 December 1999).

End of this report period: 24 December 1999.

Evidence of the presence of virulent viruses with amino acid sequences at the cleavage site of the F protein of RRQRRF has been detected in three poultry flocks in the area previously described as the *Newcastle disease free zone with vaccination*. This area (Mangrove Mountain Control Area) is now designated as a *Newcastle disease infected zone with vaccination*. A new surrounding *surveillance zone* (Cumberland) encompasses the Greater Sydney region.

No virulent viruses have been isolated from these three flocks, which have shown little in the way of overt clinical disease. The diagnostic tests used at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), Geelong, an OIE Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease, to demonstrate the virulent characteristics are various combinations of the following tests:

- immunoperoxidase-specific staining in the brain for Newcastle disease virus (NDV);
- histological lesions of a non-suppurative encephalomyelitis;
- virulent sequence at the cleavage site of the F protein of RRQRRF by PCR⁽¹⁾ testing of paraffin wax embedded brain and fresh brain, lung and/or tracheal tissue pool;
- specific NDV fluorescent antibody staining of wet impression smears of the brain of chickens exhibiting signs of CNS⁽²⁾-based disease.

Virus isolation is still in progress in some cases.

In the absence of overt clinical disease, these flocks had been routinely processed prior to these results becoming available. The farms are being subjected to thorough decontamination procedures.

In addition to the above findings, a variant Newcastle disease virus identified by AAHL with the cleavage site motif RRQGRF (one amino acid different from the specified virulent sequences), designated PR32, had an ICPI⁽³⁾ of 1.60. As PR32 is a novel virus which did not produce any demonstrable clinical disease, AAHL is repeating the ICPI next week.

Control over the movement of products from the vaccination zone with audit of the movement protocols has been implemented.

Vaccination within the vaccination zone was completed on 20 December 1999. It is currently proposed to continue vaccination of restocked chickens for the next six months.

(1) PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

(2) CNS: central nervous system.

(3) ICPI: intracerebral pathogenicity index.

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN ITALY
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 1

Translation of a fax received on 27 December 1999 from Dr Romano Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

End of previous report period: 20 December 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [49], 182, dated 24 December 1999).

End of this report period: 22 December 1999.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Roverbella (45° 16' N – 10° 46' E), Mantua (Mantova) province	1
Sanguinetto (45° 11' N – 11° 09' E), Verona province	1

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: commercial turkey farms.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
27,000	27,000	27,000	0	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Avian Diseases Laboratory, Padua.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** virus isolation. Intravenous pathogenicity index = 3.0.
- C. Causal agent:** H7N1 strain (a virus of low pathogenicity that has increased in virulence following successive passages).

Source of agent / origin of infection: unknown.

Control measures during reporting period: stamping out; protection and surveillance zone set up; ban on the exportation of susceptible animals and hatching eggs.

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