Contents

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN TAIPEI CHINA
in cattle

EMERGENCY REPORT

Summary of a fax received on 29 January 2000 from Dr Watson H.T. Sung, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Animal and Plant Inspection and Quarantine, Council of Agriculture, Taipei:

Report date: 26 January 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.
Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 15 January 2000.
Estimated date of first infection: 11 January 2000.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Yunlin prefecture	2 farms
Chiayi prefecture	1 farm

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	*susceptible*	*cases*	*deaths*	*destroyed*	*slaughtered*
bov	265	79	3*	262	0

* calves, which died on 20 January 2000.

Diagnosis: the infected cattle showed depression, anorexia, and other characteristic clinical signs (excessive salivation, lameness, fever, scars/ulcers/vesicles on feet, mouth, tongue and teats); a sudden drop in milk production was observed in the lactating cows.

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: National Animal Health Research Institute.

B. Diagnostic tests used:

- virus isolation (negative);
- PCR (positive);
- DNA sequencing test;
- virus neutralisation test;
- viral non-structural protein ELISA (positive, except for one of the outbreaks in Yunlin prefecture);
- viral antigen typing by ELISA.

C. ***Causal agent:*** virus type O. Results of DNA sequence analysis: VP1 99% similar to type O/Taiwan/99.

Origin of infection / mode of spread: under investigation.

Control measures during reporting period:
- stamping out;
- destruction of the milk produced in the infected farms;
- since 21 January 2000, vaccination of all the cloven-hoofed animals in the country;
- strict environmental hygienic control and quarantine measures have been implemented around the infected farms (within a radius of about 3 km).

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SCRAPIE IN AUSTRIA
Additional information

EMERGENCY REPORT – CONTD (SEE *DISEASE INFORMATION*, **13** [4], 16, DATED 28 JANUARY 2000)

Text of a fax received on 31 January 2000 from Dr Peter Weber, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Health, Sports and Consumer Protection, Vienna:

Animal affected:

A three-year-old ewe for breeding, affected for approximately two months (pruritus, eczema), was brought to the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna for treatment, where it was euthanised on 3 January 2000 and examined at the Institute of Pathology for diagnosis.

Flock affected:

Federal Province of Upper Austria (Oberösterreich), district of Vöcklabruck. A total of 25 sheep of Texel breed, comprising 17 ewes, 3 rams and 5 lambs.

Structure of farm:

In 1992 the entire flock was culled due to maedi-visna. Subsequently, a Texel breeding flock was built up by purchase of animals, mostly from Member States of the European Union.

Diagnosis:

1. Federal Institute for Eradication of Animal Diseases, Mödling, and Institute of Pathology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna.

2. Federal Research Institute for Viral Animal Diseases, Tübingen, Germany.

Measures at the farm:
- quarantine of the flock,
- culling of the flock,
- examination of all animals at the Federal Institute for Eradication of Animal Diseases,
- incineration of the carcasses.

Epidemiological investigation:

A total of 10 contact farms (by purchases from the affected farm) were found: 8 in the Federal Province of Upper Austria (Oberösterreich) and 2 in the Federal Province of Carinthia (Kärnten).

Measures in the contact farms:

- culling of the flocks,
- examination of all animals older than 12 months,
- incineration of the carcasses.

Measures in the farms that delivered animals to the scrapie-infected flock:

Drawing up of a surveillance programme, in collaboration with the Austrian Sheep Breeding Association: all animals in farms that had delivered sheep to the infected farm since 1995 must be traced. A record of all farms thus identified shall be kept by the district administrative authority. This record shall contain all incoming and outgoing animals as well as all notifications of slaughter and death. The farms – including the keeping of farm registers – shall be checked at three-monthly intervals by the official veterinarian and the animals examined for clinical signs of scrapie. The results of these investigations must be reported to the Federal Veterinary Services quarterly.

Legal provisions:

In Austria, since May 1991, the brains of all sheep and goats with a background of central nervous system disturbances or which are suspected of being infected with rabies are examined histologically at the Federal Institute for Eradication of Animal Diseases at Mödling for the existence of lesions typical of spongiform encephalopathies. Between 1991 and 1998, a total of 562 brains of sheep and 103 brains of goats were examined, all with negative results.

Notification of scrapie became mandatory in 1995 under the provisions of the *Scrapie-Verordnung* (Scrapie Regulation, BGBl II Nr. 1995/165).

European Commission Decision No. 98/272/EC of 23 April 1998 on epidemiological surveillance for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies was implemented in Austria by Decree GZ 39.605/38-VI/A/4/98.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ZIMBABWE
Final report

Summary of a fax received on 3 February 2000 from Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Harare:

Report date: 2 February 2000.

The two outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD) reported in *Disease Information*, **12** (27), 99, dated 16 July 1999, and **12** (28), 102, dated 23 July 1999, were originally suspected of being linked before virus typing results were obtained, but they were, in fact, not linked. The virus isolated at Mkwasine Ranch (20º 50' S - 32º 0' E) was identified as SAT 1 and therefore was in no way linked to the infection in Mapanza Estate (20º 55' S - 31º 47' E), where the virus had been identified as SAT 3.

It was clear that both outbreaks had originated from wildlife, as the wildlife areas which included buffalo were in adjacent properties. Although no direct buffalo contact occurred due to control fences, there was a strong possibility that infected antelopes had crossed the FMD control fences from wildlife areas to cattle areas.

These cattle areas which are at high risk are all vaccinated against FMD, and both Mapanza Estate and Mkwasine Ranch fall within the FMD vaccination control zone, but the disease occurred in spite of vaccination. A total of 124,506 booster vaccinations were done to control the outbreaks in Chiredzi district.

No new cases of FMD have been reported from either Mapanza Estate or Mkwasine Ranch since 28 July 1999. Thus, there have been no cases of FMD in the country for over six months.

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA

EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of a fax received on 4 February 2000 from Dr Gardner Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

Report date: 4 February 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
near Tamworth, New South Wales	1 farm

Description of affected population: the affected farm is a pullet rearing facility of 3 sheds of 6,000 birds each.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

susceptible	*cases*	*deaths*	*destroyed*	*slaughtered*
18,000	...	60	...	...

Diagnosis: mortalities remain low (a total of 60 birds in three days) to date, with nervous signs seen in a small number of birds.

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL).

B. Diagnostic tests used:

- strong immuno-peroxidase (IPx) staining of brain tissue;
- PCR with virulent sequence (RRQRRF – similar to the virulent sequence seen with previous virulent isolates in New South Wales);
- haemagglutination agent from harvested allantoic fluid (although embryo was not dead) confirmed as Newcastle disease virus by haemagglutination inhibition test, but this virus has not yet been pathotyped.

C. Causal agent: virulent strain of Newcastle disease virus.

Epidemiology: there have been no identifiable high-risk movements onto or from the affected farm in the last month.

Control measures during reporting period:

- The property has been quarantined with only feed truck movements permitted at this stage. Trucks are required to undergo rigorous disinfection.
- Surveillance activities and investigations are continuing.

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