

*Contents*

White spot disease in Panama	27
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Denmark	28
Foot and mouth disease in Taipei China: in goats (follow-up report)	29
West Nile fever in the United States of America: final report	30

**WHITE SPOT DISEASE IN PANAMA**

EMERGENCY REPORT

*Translation of an e-mail received on 26 February 2000 from Dr Raul De Obaldia Alvarado, National Manager, Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Panama:*

**Report date:** 26 February 2000.

**General situation:**

In January 1999, the virus was detected in shrimp farms in several countries in Central America and an emergency was immediately declared in the countries of the region, due to the fact that the virus had previously occurred only in farmed species in Asia.

In April 1999, a seminar on techniques for preventing white spot and yellow head viruses was held to study the problem.

Molecular diagnostic tests were carried out using PCR and the specimens from the Panamanian farms tested positive to the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV). In the initial sample of 20 aquatic farms, 11 (55%) located in the provinces of Veraguas, Herrera, Los Santos, Cocolé and Panama, were found to be positive.

**Surveillance operations:**

- Work is currently under way to ascertain prevalence and to confirm whether it has been confined mainly to the shrimp production areas and whether there is a higher incidence in some regions than in others.
- Health monitoring of wild shrimp and other crustacean populations.

**General prophylaxis and/or eradication methods:**

- Disinfection of ponds and work tools in accordance with the established technical plan.
- Restriction of movements within the larva production centre and the farm.
- Restrictions on the entry of vehicles and personnel to the farm.
- Proper control of contaminating fauna (birds, dogs, cats, etc.).
- Disposal of waste in isolated places.
- Treatment of sewage and by-products from shrimp processing in order to reduce water contamination in terms of public health as well as animal and environmental health.

- Control on the movements into the country of shrimp and other crustaceans in all developmental phases for use in aquaculture, as well as import controls.
- Certificate of freedom from white spot disease for shellfish processing plants.
- Establishment of strategically placed laboratory units to diagnose diseases in aquatic organisms.

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## **BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN DENMARK**

### EMERGENCY REPORT

*Text of a fax received on 28 February 2000 from Dr Preben Willeberg, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Søborg:*

**Report date:** 28 February 2000.

### ***Historical background:***

A single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had previously been diagnosed in Denmark, in August 1992. The affected animal was a five-year-old Scottish Highland cow imported from the United Kingdom in 1988. It was clearly demonstrated that, prior to export, the affected animal had had access to feed contaminated with BSE.

A ban on feeding of ruminant protein to ruminants was introduced in Denmark in June 1990 and was extended to include mammalian protein in January 1997.

### ***Case:***

A 3½-year-old cow was killed on 20 January 2000 due to suspicion of BSE, and collected by special transport by an authorised rendering plant, where the head was removed and sent to the Danish Veterinary Laboratory. In accordance with standard procedure, the carcass was stored under lock and key by the official veterinarian at the rendering plant pending the diagnosis.

Due to histopathological findings indicating BSE, the Danish Veterinary Laboratory forwarded material to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge, United Kingdom. Notification that the diagnosis of BSE was confirmed arrived at the Danish Veterinary Laboratory on 25 February in the evening.

### ***Epidemiological background:***

The affected cow was born and reared in a herd established in 1976 by purchase of Danish animals. No further animals have been purchased since the herd was established. The herd consists of 30 dairy cows, 20 pregnant heifers and 20 young bovines, as well as 4 sows, and is situated in Northern Jutland (Jylland).

The animals in the farm have been fed crops from the farm and supplementary feed from a local feedmill.

### ***Measures taken:***

Immediately after the notification by the practising veterinarian of the suspicion of BSE, the herd was placed under restrictions, namely a ban on movement of animals, by the Regional Veterinary Officer.

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**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN TAIPEI CHINA  
in goats (follow-up report)**

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

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

**End of previous report period:** 18 February 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [7], 26).

**End of this report period:** 25 February 2000.

**New outbreak:**

Location	No. of outbreaks
Kaoshiung prefecture	1

**Total number of animals in the new outbreak:**

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
cap	295	49	49	246	0

**Diagnosis:** on 22 February 2000, a goat farmer informed the Livestock Diseases Control Center (LDCC) in Kaoshiung prefecture that 49 kids less than two weeks old kids died suddenly and over a short period on his farm. Spot cardiomyonecrosis was found in four of the kids that had survived. No clinical signs were observed in adult goats.

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** National Institute for Animal Health (NIAH).
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** sera, oesophageal-pharyngeal fluid and milk samples were collected for the detection of FMD infection. The following tests were conducted:
- virus isolation (in progress);
  - RT-PCR (positive);
  - DNA sequencing test;
  - neutralisation test (in progress);
  - viral non structural protein ELISA (positive).
- C. Causal agent:** results of DNA sequence analysis: VP1 is 100% similar to type O/Taiwan/99.

**Epidemiology:** the origin of the infection is under investigation. Goats in this farm were vaccinated against FMD on 18 February 2000.

**Control measures during reporting period:**

- stamping out (all goats on this farm were destroyed and rendered on 24 February 2000);
- destruction of the milk produced in the farm;
- strict environmental hygienic control and quarantine measures have been implemented around the infected farm (within a radius of about 3 km);
- mass vaccination against FMD was strengthened.

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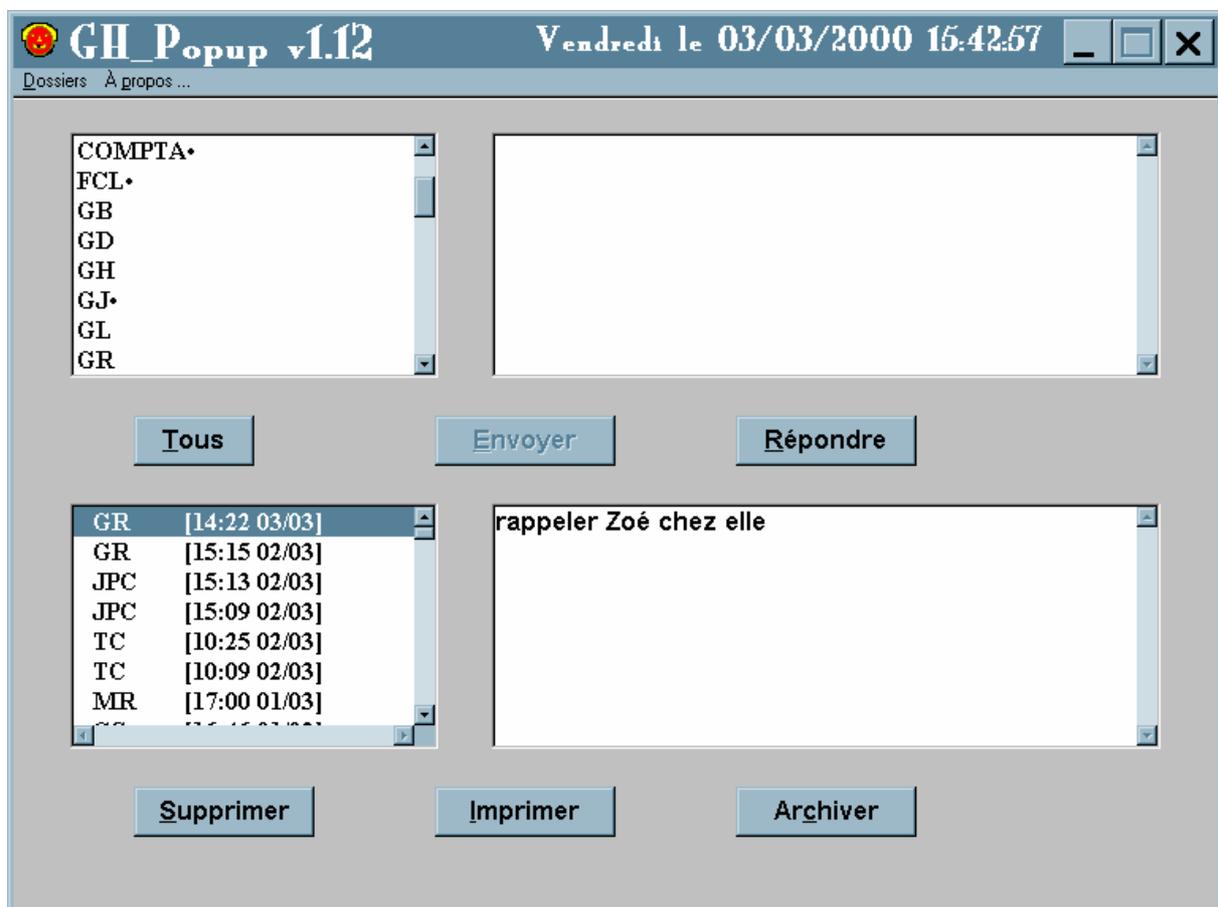
## WEST NILE FEVER IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Final report

*Text of a communication received on 29 February 2000 from Dr Alfonso Torres, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:*

**Report date:** 18 February 2000.

The West Nile virus (WNV) outbreak in the United States of America has ended. The last case of active WNV was identified in a wild American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) that was collected on 5 November 1999. WNV activity in the United States has ceased because of various factors, including climate and vector control activities.

- WNV was identified in 24 horses from the State of New York: 21 from Suffolk County (eastern Long Island) and 3 from Nassau County (western Long Island), which is closer to New York City, where humans, mosquitoes, and wild birds tested positive for WNV.



All horses had onset of clinical illness between 26 August 1999 and 18 October 1999. Virus was isolated from tissues of 3 of the 24 cases.

The genders and breeds of horses infected with WNV appear to reflect the general population of horses on Long Island. Females (mares and fillies) and males (stallions and geldings) of several breeds were infected; most were quarterhorses and standardbreds. The age of the horses that were WNV cases averaged 14.5 years and ranged from 2 to 30 years. The WNV attack rate for horses was 40.4 per 10,000 in Suffolk County and 6.3 per 10,000 in Nassau County.

- Bird surveillance has focused on dead bird collections, primarily of American crows and other wild birds.

Up to 31 December 1999, more than 550 birds were tested at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of these, 194 wild birds were positive for WNV. All of the positive wild birds were collected during the period from 8 August 1999 to 5 November 1999.

Orders of native wild birds found positive for WNV were as follows: Anseriformes, Falconiformes, Ciconiiformes, Gruiformes, Charadriiformes, Columbiformes, Cuculiformes, Coraciiformes, and Passeriformes. WNV has not affected any commercial poultry.

Surveillance in wild birds will continue through the fall of 2000 in at least 20 eastern and southern States.

***Additional information:***

Further information on the WNV outbreak is available on the web page of the USDA-APHIS-VS<sup>(1)</sup>, at: <A HREF="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ep/WNV/summary.html">http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ep/WNV/summary.html</A>

(1) USDA-APHIS-VS: United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Veterinary Services.

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