

Contents

Foot and mouth disease in Argentina: diagnostic findings (serology)	117
Newcastle disease in Mexico: follow-up report	119

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ARGENTINA
Diagnostic findings (serology)

(Date of last reported outbreak: April 1994).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of an e-mail received on 10 August 2000 from Dr Oscar Alejandro Bruni, President of the National Service of Agrifood Health and Quality (SENASA), Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, Buenos Aires:

This report covers the period from 22 July to 8 August 2000 and refers to diagnostic findings of serological tests carried out by the SENASA Central Laboratory with respect to foot and mouth disease (FMD).

<i>Location of the farms involved</i>
district of Clorinda, province of Formosa
department of Mercedes, province of Corrientes
department of Concepcion del Uruguay, province of Entre Rios

Initially, the geographical area involved only one of the many establishments covered by epidemiological surveillance and monitoring carried out by SENASA field services on a regular and continuous basis, namely an establishment in the Province of Formosa.

The general epidemiological situation up to 2 August 2000 had been perfectly normal. All the blood samples from 5,872 cattle, 124 pigs and 58 goats, tested using the VIAA⁽¹⁾ and EITB⁽²⁾ tests, had given negative results. These routine serological tests are carried out on a day-to-day basis in the border zones and in other establishments that are considered to present a sanitary risk.

On 2 August 2000, in the context of the epidemiological surveillance activities and procedures carried out in the border zones, 10 bovines illegally imported from a neighbouring country were discovered in a jointly-owned establishment located in a border transit zone in the district of Clorinda, province of Formosa. In view of this fact, since the relevant health documentation was missing, it was decided to take the maximum preventive measure in compliance with current legislation, namely the preventive slaughter and destruction of the 10 bovines, after taking blood samples for serological screening for FMD.

The laboratory diagnosis proved positive in 4 of the 10 bovines sampled prior to slaughter, none of which had presented specific clinical signs of vesicular disease on any of the previous visits or inspections.

After the investigations confirmed that the herd in question had entered on 22 July 2000, stamping-out measures were applied to all of the animals that had been housed in the aforesaid establishment: 1,300 bovines were considered to have come into contact with the illegally introduced bovines and blood samples were taken from 82 animals, 8 of which tested positive to the laboratory tests conducted.

Consequently, measures were adopted to mitigate the risk during the entire period covered by this report. In addition, the relevant tracing and monitoring measures were applied to all of the 13 consignments of animals sent from the above-mentioned zone in the province of Formosa to the rest of the country. Measures included blood sampling for serological testing of all the animals dispatched, with the herds being kept under strict surveillance and quarantine control.

As a result of these investigations in the 13 consignments, further positive serology results were obtained in 2 animals from a consignment of 4 bovines, in a farm situated in the administrative department of Mercedes, in the province of Corrientes. It was therefore decided to apply stamping-out measures to all of the bovines that were housed with these animals. At the time of stamping out, none of the 1,608 bovines involved presented any clinical signs of foot and mouth disease.

Further epidemiological investigations detected a positive reactor in a newly formed herd of 62 bovines, comprising 2 bovines from the previously mentioned consignment and 60 native bovines transferred from the Mercedes establishment, where they were born, to another establishment belonging to the same owners located in the administrative department of Concepción del Uruguay, in the province of Entre Ríos. Stamping-out measures were applied to the positive bovine and its 700 contacts.

Sera from all of the aforesaid bovines were processed at the SENASA Central Laboratory in the district of Martínez, in the province of Buenos Aires.

Measures adopted:

In accordance with Article 1.4.4.4. of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*, it was decided to implement a 'surveillance zone' in the province of Formosa and the areas considered to be at risk in the provinces of Corrientes and Entre Ríos, in accordance with the previously mentioned epidemiological situation. All of the livestock-producing establishments in the area are currently subject to intensive surveillance, including serological testing, as well as all establishments which, due to their presumed epidemiological links, pose a possible risk.

The criteria established and the measures adopted must take into account the official FMD status of Argentina and follow the procedures established under SENASA Resolution No. 779/99 regarding the National Health Emergency System, which fall within the guidelines established and recommended by the OIE for such circumstances, as well as for continuous epidemiological surveillance and monitoring in accordance with Chapter 1.4.5. of the *International Animal Health Code*.

These measures include the following:

- inspection and strict border controls for all products (it should be noted that the entry of susceptible animals from Brazil and Paraguay is prohibited);
- incentive schemes to encourage the immediate and compulsory reporting of suspected vesicular disease;
- tracing;
- restriction on movements;
- stamping-out measures;
- epidemiological monitoring;
- epidemiological surveillance;
- zoning.

It should be noted that, in the province of Formosa, there are no abattoirs approved for the domestic market or for export purposes, neither do any exist within the established surveillance zones.

(1) VIAA: virus infection associated antigen.

(2) EITB: electroimmunotransfer blot.

Note by the OIE Central Bureau: the above report states that FMD virus antibodies have been detected. The report does not state whether this is considered to be confirmation of infection. The OIE Central Bureau has asked the Delegate of Argentina for clarification on the FMD status of his country. Furthermore, the report has been sent to the members of the OIE Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission for their evaluation and advice on this point.

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN MEXICO
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 3

Translation of an e-mail received on 10 August 2000 from Dr Angel Omar Flores Hernández, Director General of Animal Health, Secretariat for Agriculture, Animal Production and Rural Development, Mexico City:

End of previous report period: 2 May 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [17], 71, dated 5 May 2000).

End of this report period: 10 August 2000.

As of 28 July 2000, of the 92 broiler flocks previously infected, 91 have been restocked, representing a population of 13,087,787 birds. This constitutes a 98.9 % improvement in the situation.

The supervision of animal health activities (cleaning, disinfection, restocking, vaccination, etc.) relating to the prevention, control and eradication of this disease is being conducted by the staff of DINESA⁽¹⁾.

Risk analysis is now under way to assess a procedure for placing sentinel birds in flocks not yet affected by the disease and, eventually, in those that have been affected. From 21 to 28 July, sentinel birds were placed in 23 unaffected broiler flocks, representing a total of 1,781,842 broilers and 4,032 sentinel birds.

(1) DINESA: National Animal Health Emergency Procedure.

*
* *

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever by the Central Bureau of the Office International des Epizooties concerning the legal status of any country or territory mentioned, or its authorities, or concerning the delineation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Unless otherwise stated, material published is derived from declarations made to the Central Bureau by the Veterinary Administrations of the countries and territories mentioned.