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CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA The Delegate declares the country free from this disease

Text of a fax received on 24 August 2000 from Dr Alfonso Torres, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

New diagnostic findings

In December 1997, in the State of California, an 11-year-old donkey jack was tested for contagious equine metritis on a routine clearance testing for export semen. The urethral fossa of this donkey was cultured positive (see *Disease Information*, **11** [1], 4, dated 2 January 1998). This organism resembled *Taylorella equigenitalis* because it is was gram-negative coccobacillus that only grew on media used for the isolation of *T. equigenitalis*. In January 1998, there were two similar isolates from the urethral fossae of two male donkeys in the State of Kentucky (see *Disease Information*, **11** [8], 25, dated 20 February 1998). These isolates had the same phenotypic characteristics as the California isolate. None of the animals had any clinical signs of disease nor was there any association between the animals.

Advanced testing done in 1998 by Dr D. Hirsh and others revealed that the isolates differed from the known reference strains of *T. equigenitalis*. Results from these tests supported the need to do a genotypic and phenotypic taxonomic study. The study was done by Dr S. Jang and others and has been submitted for peer review. However, results from this study concluded that the microorganisms isolated from the male donkeys are different from *T. equigenitalis*, and proposed that they be considered a new species within the genus *Taylorella* and named *T. asinigenitalis*. This name has been proposed by international bacterial taxonomy groups. *Taylorella asinigenitalis* does not appear to produce disease in jacks, or mares, though it is contagious and induces an antibody response in infected animals.

Conclusion

Because of the highly contagious and costly nature of contagious equine metritis, all horses and donkeys and their products that are imported to or exported from the United States of America are tested for *T. equigenitalis*. The identification of a non-pathogenic contagious equine metritis-like organism was shown by molecular technology to represent a distinct species.

This *T. equigenitalis*-like organism, while contagious, does not appear to produce disease. Because of the economic consequences of correctly distinguishing isolates of these two microorganisms, a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) - based assay has been developed for this purpose.

In light of the recent findings, the United States of America declares itself free from contagious equine metritis.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM / GREAT BRITAIN Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

Text of a fax received on 25 August 2000 from Dr J.M. Scudamore, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London:

End of previous report period: 13 August 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [32], 127, dated 19 August 2000).

End of this report period: 25 August 2000.

Epidemiology: as of 25 August, no further cases of classical swine fever (CSF) have been confirmed on any holding in Great Britain. Detailed investigations into the source of the infection continue.

Diagnostic findings:

Studies at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge suggest that:

- a) the virus causing each of the five recorded outbreaks is the same;
- b) it belongs to the genotype 2.1;
- c) it can be distinguished from the genotype 2.1 virus responsible for the 1997/98 epidemics in Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy;
- d) it is more related to, but still not identical to, the viruses isolated from limited CSF outbreaks in Austria and Switzerland in 1993, and in Italy in 1992 and 1995.

According to the Community Reference Laboratory in Hannover (Germany), there are no reports of other recent outbreaks of CSF in Europe this year caused by genotype 2.1 strain viruses. It therefore appears that this outbreak has been caused by the introduction of a virus not currently present in Europe.

Control measures during reporting period: on 14 August 2000, the European Commission adopted Decision 2000/515/EEC banning the export of live pigs and semen from England. Subsequent to a meeting of the Standing Veterinary Committee in Brussels (Belgium) on 22 August, the European Commission adopted Decision 2000/528/EEC. This came into force on 25 August and reduced the area subject to the ban to three counties (Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex) of England.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ARGENTINA
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 3

Translation of an extract from an e-mail received on 25 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:

End of previous report period: 21 August 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [33], 139, dated 25 August 2000).

End of this report period: 25 August 2000.

Among all the illegally-imported animals, only one tested Probang positive. The A₂₄ strain isolated in this case will be sent for diagnosis confirmation, typing and sub-typing, and sequencing, to the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the OIE World Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, UK.

So far, no other animal from any of the country's provinces has given any positive serological test results.

As of the date of this report, samples have been taken from 6,245 bovines from 142 establishments which received shipments of cattle from the affected province (Formosa) between 1 June and 5 August. All the test results were negative.

In regard to the mass serological survey being carried out throughout the totality of the country in order to verify the sanitary situation, 3,569 samples have been taken from 3,452 bovines, 61 pigs, 42 sheep et 14 goats. In these cases, too, all the test results were negative.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN GERMANY

(Date of last previously reported outbreak in domestic pigs: November 1999).

EMERGENCY REPORTS

Text of two faxes received on 24 and 31 July 2000 from Dr Werner Zwingmann, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Dates of initial detection of animal health incidents: 21 and 29 July 2000.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Bernkastel - Wittlich district, Rhineland - Palatinate <i>Land</i>	2

Description of affected population: one holding for fattening and one holding for breeding and fattening.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
sui	1,045	...	...	1,045	0

Diagnosis:

- A. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** State Department for Veterinary Research, Koblenz.
- B. **Diagnostic tests used:** virus isolation, ELISA ⁽¹⁾.

Epidemiology:

- A. **Source of agent / origin of infection:** investigations are under way.
- B. **Other epidemiological details:** the holdings are located in a protection zone set up because of classical swine fever in feral pigs.

Control measures during reporting period:

- the remaining animals were slaughtered and will be destroyed in rendering plants;
- prohibition on movements of susceptible animals in an area around the infected holdings;
- tracing of animal movements into and out of the infected holdings.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN MAURITIUS

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: 1994).

Text of a fax received on 29 August 2000 from Dr D. Sibartie, Principal Veterinary Officer, Division of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources, Reduit :

Number of outbreaks: one (in one farm).

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>
sui	5	...	...

Diagnosis: clinical and post-mortem. Confirmatory tests under way.

Control measures during reporting period: all surrounding farms are currently being vaccinated and breeders in other, more distant places are also being advised to vaccinate their stocks.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN KUWAIT Follow-up report (type SAT 2)

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

Text of an e-mail received on 29 August 2000 from Dr Sultan Al-Khalaf, Deputy Director General for Animal and Fish Resources, the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF), Safat:

Previous report: see *Disease Information*, **13** [22], 87, dated 9 June 2000.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

<i>month</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
May	Kabd	ovi	366	3	0	0
June	Jahra	ovi	700	15	0	0

Diagnosis: the last outbreak reported in a flock of sheep in Jahra was observed on 16/6/2000. No more cases of foot and mouth disease (FMD) due to virus serotype SAT 2 have been detected in small ruminants in the State of Kuwait since.

No cases of FMD due to either O or SAT 2 serotypes have been reported in cattle this year.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ZAMBIA

EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of a fax received on 30 August 2000 from Dr M.P.C. Mangani, Deputy Director of the Department of Research and Specialist Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Lusaka:

Report date: 29 August 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 24 August 2000.

Estimated date of first infection: 18 July 2000.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Mwandi area, Sesheke, Western Province (17° 32' S - 24° 54' E)	1
Sikuzu crushpen, Sesheke, Western Province (17° 32' S - 24° 51' E)	1

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
bov	856	191	0	0	0

Description of affected population: animals of all age groups and indigenous breed have been affected. Thirteen affected herds are within 15 km of Mwandi Veterinary Camp and two herds within 4 km of Sikuzu crushpen in Sesheke district.

Diagnosis:

- A. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Botswana Vaccine Institute.
- B. **Diagnostic tests used:** serology.
- C. **Causal agent:** type SAT 1.

Epidemiology:

- A. **Mode of spread:** the seasonal transhumance practice of moving cattle to the flood plains for grazing is responsible for the spread of the disease.
- B. **Other epidemiological details:** surveillance has been intensified, the affected areas have been quarantined and vaccination will be implemented soon.

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WEST NILE FEVER IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

EMERGENCY REPORT

Extracts from an e-mail received on 30 August 2000 from Dr Alfonso Torres, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

Report date: 29 August 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 20 August 2000.

Estimated date of first infection: 17 August 2000.

Outbreak:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Richmond County, State of New York	1

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>
equ	2	1	0	1	0
fau	...	...	40	0	0

Description of affected population: The case horse was a 26 year-old gelding with no history of travel; the other horse on the premises has remained clinically normal. The exact number of other equines in the area is not yet known, but is believed to be small; other livestock are not known to be in the area and there is no commercial poultry.

Diagnosis:

- A. **Date of confirmation:** 28 August 2000.
- B. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Ames, Iowa.
- C. **Diagnostic tests used:** IgM-capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA); plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT) .

Epidemiology:

- A. **Source of agent / origin of infection:** the virus affected New York City and surrounding counties in 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [42], 150, dated 29 October 1999 and **13** [8], 30, dated 3 March 2000) and was documented to have overwintered into the year 2000.
- B. **Mode of spread:** mosquitoes (*Culex* or *Aedes* sp.).
- C. **Other epidemiological details:**
The confirmed equine case was located in Richmond County, also known as Staten Island. Staten Island is one of the five boroughs of New York City. In July 2000, an outbreak of human encephalitis caused by West Nile virus (WNV) began in New York City; to date there have been five human cases identified in New York City.

Four of the five human infections with WNV were in Richmond County residents. Richmond County has also had 40 dead wild birds, primarily crows or other corvids, and 64 mosquito pools detected as WNV-positive in 2000.

Overall, wild birds infected with WNV have been documented in five States this year through an ongoing surveillance system that includes testing of wild birds, mosquito trapping and testing, sentinel chicken testing, enhanced passive and active human surveillance, and enhanced passive veterinary surveillance. Surveillance has not detected any WNV activity within 2 miles of the John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens County, New York, which is more than 20 miles from the infected horse premises in Staten Island.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Mosquito control measures have been carried out in the outbreak area. The entire county was sprayed with a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide (adulticide) on 2, 14, 17, and 27 August 2000; another application is planned for 30 August 2000. Additional applications of insecticide will be made within a 2-mile radius of any future WNV-positive wild bird, mosquito pool, human, or equine. In addition, larvicidal treatments of catch basins and breeding source reduction activities have been ongoing throughout New York City for over 3 months and are continuing.
- Based on the scientific literature, and on three experimental equine inoculation or transmission studies underway or recently completed in the United States, horses are incidental ("dead-end") hosts that do not develop viremia adequate to transmit WNV to mosquitoes. Therefore no quarantines nor other movement restrictions have been placed on the one clinically normal horse remaining on the case premises.

Further information on the WNV activity in the United States of America can be found on the following web page: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ep/WNV/summary.html>

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN NAMIBIA
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

Text of an e-mail received on 31 August 2000 from Dr John J.H. Shaw, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, Windhoek:

Previous report: see *Disease Information*, **13** [33], 139, dated 25 August 2000.

Epidemiology: no evidence of spread from original focus.

Control measures during reporting period: vaccination with trivalent SAT 1, 2 and 3 is in progress.

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BLUETONGUE IN ITALY

EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of a fax received on 31 August 2000 from Dr Romano Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

Report date: 31 August 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 18 August 2000.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Sardinia island	71

Description of affected population: Sardinian sheep (adults and lambs).

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
ovi	17,822	755	190	0	0

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Experimental Animal Disease Control Institute, Teramo.

B. Diagnostic tests used: serological tests (ELISA⁽¹⁾ - agar gel immunodiffusion), virus isolation.

Control measures during reporting period: control of insect vectors; control of animal movement inside the country; modified stamping out and screening.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

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