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SCRAPIE IN SPAIN

(Disease never previously reported).

Extract from the report of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Jerusalem, Israel, 19-22 September 2000):

In Spain, a case of scrapie was reported in July 2000, within the framework of a surveillance programme. The entire flock was destroyed.

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RIFT VALLEY FEVER IN SAUDI ARABIA
Confirmation of diagnosis

Text of a fax received on 1 October 2000 from Dr Omar A. Hashem, Director of Animal Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Riyadh:

End of previous report period: 19 September 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [37], 166, dated 22 September 2000).

End of this report period: 1 October 2000.

Some cases of Rift Valley fever were reported in human beings and animals in Jazan area.

The disease in humans was diagnosed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States of America.

Strict quarantine measures have been applied in the infected area.

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BLUETONGUE IN TUNISIA
Follow-up report No. 2

Translation of a fax received on 2 October 2000 from Dr Said Bahri, Director General of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunis:

End of previous report period: 7 February 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [6], 21, dated 11 February 2000).

End of this report period: 18 September 2000.

After a period of remission during the first five months of 2000 (a period in which no outbreaks were observed due to unfavourable climatic conditions for the vectors), clinically expressed cases of bluetongue have occurred since June 2000. The symptoms and lesions observed have been less marked than those seen at the end of 1999 and the morbidity, mortality and lethality rates have been very much lower.

Location of the new outbreaks: during the reporting period, a total of 65 outbreaks occurred in the following ten Governorates:

- Ariana
- Beja
- Ben Arous
- Jendouba
- Kairouan
- Le Kef
- Nabeul
- Sfax
- Sidi Bouzid
- Sousse.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
ovi	121,024	6,110	1,318

Control measures during reporting period:

- A system of vector control for breeding sites, consisting of disinsectisation conducted from the air, was set up in June and July 2000 in the Governorates in the centre of the country. This treatment has chiefly been applied in the wadis, marshland areas and valley bottoms.
- In the outbreaks, the affected flocks have been maintained in isolation in their farms; symptomatic treatment has been introduced for sick animals.
- Insecticides have been sprayed approximately every two weeks in the outbreaks and surrounding areas, on the animals, and in and around the premises.
- The first sheep vaccination campaign, using a monovalent (type 2) attenuated virus vaccine, began on 30 August 2000 and will probably be completed by mid October. A stock of 1,400,000 doses of vaccine has been acquired to meet the requirements of the campaign, which is targeted at sheep flocks located around the outbreaks. Perifocal vaccination will be complemented by a second, more extensive campaign, which will take place in February and March 2001 (a period during which the great majority of ewes are not gestating) to minimise the risk of postvaccinal abortions and congenital malformations in neonates. A protocol to evaluate the vaccination has been developed and is being applied to selected sheep flocks in different regions of the country.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SOUTH AFRICA
Follow-up report No. 2

Extract from an e-mail received on 4 October 2000 from Dr Emily Mmamakgaba Mogajane, Chief Director, Agricultural Production, National Department of Agriculture, Pretoria:

End of previous report period: 24 September 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [38], 170, dated 29 September 2000).

End of this report period: 3 October 2000.

Depopulation:

In order to minimise the risk of further spread and to shorten the time to normalise the situation, it was decided that, based on the identified natural barriers, an area of about 3 km around the infected two farms should be depopulated. This involved 14 farms, which ranged from smallholdings, where animals were kept as pets, to good production systems.

The stamping-out policy on the infected farms was completed on 29 September 2000. Depopulation within the 3-km radius was completed on 1 October.

Physical examinations and sero-surveillance:

Intensive serological surveys conducted since 18 September 2000 on all farms within the restricted 10-km-radius zone have thus far produced negative results.

Within both the 10-km-radius infected zone and the 20-km-radius surveillance zone, a total of 526 farms have been inspected, with 5,821 cattle, 937 sheep, 1,442 goats and 9,566 pigs subjected to physical examinations and 469 cattle, 83 sheep, 150 goats and 135 pigs bled for sero-surveillance, and all results were negative.

The inspection visits and sero-surveillance will continue within the coming two weeks.

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LUMPY SKIN DISEASE IN MAURITIUS

(Disease never previously reported).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of a fax received on 4 October 2000 from Dr D. Sibartie, Principal Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources, Reduit:

Report date: 4 October 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 26 September 2000.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 4 October 2000.

Description of affected population: weaners and local animals on the same 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>
bov	approx. 400	20	0	20	0

Diagnosis: on 29 September 2000, four animals were sent to the abattoir and nodules were sent to South Africa for confirmation of diagnosis.

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (South Africa).

B. Diagnostic tests used: electron microscopy.

Source of agent / origin of infection: importation of cattle from a country on the African continent.

Control measures:

- all affected animals will be destroyed;
- vaccination of all animals on the farm;
- testing of all animals on the farm and restriction of animal movements;
- spraying of insecticide and dipping of all animals on the farm.

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**WEST NILE FEVER IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Follow-up report No. 1**

Text of a communication received on 5 October 2000 from Dr Alfonso Torres, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

End of previous report period: 29 August 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [34], 148, dated 1 September 2000).

End of this report period: 22 September 2000.

Seven additional cases of West Nile fever in horses have been confirmed during the reporting period. Five of the seven horses had to be euthanized after neurologic illness of one to six days in duration.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Washington County, Rhode Island	1
Cape May County, New Jersey	1
Middlesex County, Massachusetts	1
Atlantic County, New Jersey	1
Fairfield County, Connecticut	1
New Haven County, Connecticut	1
Tolland County, Connecticut	1

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: infected horses ranged in age from 2 to 21 years (mean = 11.7) and were of five different breeds.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
equ	63	7	0	5	0

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

B. Diagnostic tests used: IgM-capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA); plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT); reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); virus isolation.

Epidemiology:

Epidemiological investigations are ongoing for each of the equine cases in cooperation with State veterinary authorities. These investigations include gathering questionnaire data and sera from nearby equine premises to use as possible "controls" in analyses of potential risk factors for West Nile virus infection of horses.

The dates of onset of clinical illness ranged from 23 August to 7 September 2000.

Clinical signs observed in at least three of the seven cases included fever (39–40° C), ataxia, and inability to stand (recumbency).

Control measures during reporting period:

Mosquito control measures continue to be carried out in affected areas; these include breeding source reduction, application of larvicide and adulticide.

The two clinically ill horses that are still alive are restricted to their premises of origin until they have recovered. There is no evidence of infected horses serving as a source of infection for other animals nor as a source of virus for mosquitoes, therefore no quarantine or other movement restrictions have been placed on any clinically normal horses remaining on the case premises.

Additional information:

More information on West Nile virus activity in the United States of America can be found on the USDA-APHIS⁽¹⁾ West Nile virus web site at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/wnv/index.html>

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

(2) RT-PCR: reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction.

(3) USDA-APHIS: United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ARGENTINA
Communication from the OIE on the status of the country

Communication from the OIE Central Bureau dated 6 October 2000:

As a result of information transmitted by Dr Oscar Alejandro Bruni, Delegate of Argentina to the OIE, in recent weeks on the subject of foot and mouth disease (FMD) (see *Disease Information*, **13** [37], 163, dated 22 September 2000), the OIE sent a mission to Argentina to clarify the FMD situation in that country. The mission comprised three experts (one European, one North American and a representative of PANAFTOSA⁽¹⁾). The work of the mission was organised in close collaboration with Prof. E.J. Gimeno, Coordinator of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas.

Briefly, the conclusions of the mission, presented to the OIE Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission on 28 September 2000, were that an isolated incursion of infected animals had occurred and that the appropriate control measures were taken by the Veterinary Administration of Argentina. The experts recommended that the decision taken by the OIE to recognise Argentina as an FMD free country should not be revoked. They also made recommendations on methods of improving FMD surveillance and border control in Argentina.

The Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission adopted these recommendations and decided that Argentina should remain on the list, drawn up by the OIE, of FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised. The Commission has requested Argentina to continue to provide the OIE with epidemiological information relating to this incident.

(1) PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

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