

Contents

Sheep pox in Greece	205
Foot and mouth disease in Uruguay: follow-up report No. 3	208

SHEEP POX IN GREECE

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: November 1998).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Extract from an e-mail received on 14 November 2000 from Dr Vasilios Stylos, Head, Animal Health Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Athens:

Report date: 13 November 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of suspicion: 8 November 2000.

Date of confirmation: 13 November 2000.

Estimated date of first infection: 27 October 2000 (10-day incubation period).

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Sagini village, municipality of Orestiada, Evros prefecture (41° 28' 40" N – 26° 50' 30" E)	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>
ovi	489*	20**	0	489	0
cap	18	0	0	18	0

* 352 adult sheep + 137 lambs; ** all ages.

Diagnosis:

A. Suspicion:

The circumstances leading to suspicion and eventual confirmation of the outbreak are, in chronological order, as follows:

- On 7 November 2000, a flock owner reported to the local authorities vague clinical signs in four young lambs involving depression and inappetence.
- On 8 November, the official local veterinarian visited the flock and conducted a clinical examination revealing high fever (41°C), conjunctivitis, lacrimation and, either erythematous areas or subcutaneous papules in wool-free parts of the body (perineum, scrotum, muzzle, udder) in nine sheep of all ages. A provisional diagnosis of sheep pox was made on the basis of these clinical signs, and blood and tissue samples were collected from clinically affected animals for laboratory confirmation.

- On 9 November, more blood samples were collected both from clinically healthy animals in the affected flock and from animals in contiguous flocks. The affected flock was then killed and destroyed by burial on the spot for preventive reasons, with laboratory confirmation pending.

B. Laboratory confirmation:

On 13 November, laboratory confirmation was obtained by immunofluorescence. Differential diagnosis with bluetongue and orf (contagious pustular dermatitis) was made at the same time.

Results of laboratory tests in affected and contiguous flocks, as of 13 November 2000

Flock	No. of samples tested	Results (positive / total)		
		Sheep pox	Bluetongue	Orf
Outbreak (No. 00/01)	34	18 / 34	0 / 34	30 / 34
Contiguous flock 1	11	0 / 11	0 / 11	6 / 11
Contiguous flock 2	5	0 / 05	0 / 05	2 / 05
Contiguous flock 3	14	0 / 14	1 / 14	4 / 14
Contiguous flock 4	13	0 / 13	0 / 13	3 / 13
Total	77	18 / 77	1 / 77	45 / 77

Comments:

- Serological testing for sheep pox is done, in the first instance, using a screening immunodiffusion test (AGID).
- AGID produces cross-reactions with orf. True positive samples are, therefore, confirmed by a subsequent discriminatory virus neutralisation test.
- Virological laboratory testing for sheep pox is done by immunofluorescence, cell culture and polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
- The single positive result for bluetongue is attributed to an old infection dating back to the 1999 epizootic.

Epidemiology:

A. Background:

Sheep pox had been recorded for the last time in Greece in November 1998, in the Prefecture of Evros, in the vicinity of the present outbreak. Eradication was achieved by a stamping-out/non-vaccination policy and verified by a serological screening.

In the framework of the "EVROS" programme during the third quarter of 2000, 1,873 samples were randomly collected from various border areas in Evros Prefecture, including the one recently affected, and tested for sheep pox with negative results.

B. Tracing back:

- The affected flock usually grazed along Evros river during the day and returned to its shed at dusk (2.5 km west of Evros river).
- No animals had been introduced into the flock during the past few months.
- All adult animals in the flock were individually identified and accounted for during the census carried out prior to stamping out.
- The farmer involved is considered very reliable and has an excellent record of cooperating with the local veterinary service. The same flock had been spared from sheep pox in 1998 and bluetongue in 1999, largely due to the controls and preventive measures implemented by the farmer himself.
- There have been no other reports of suspected cases or indications of disease in the area.

Given the circumstances described above, this has been designated as a primary outbreak and determination of the exact origin and means of transmission is still in progress.

C. Tracing forward:

- No animals left the affected flock during the month prior to suspicion.
- Preliminary serological investigations in flocks immediately contiguous to the affected flock have produced negative results (see table above). Serological screening will be extended to cover more animals in the protection zone.
- Clinical surveillance and epidemiological inquiries in the vicinity of the affected flock have also produced negative results so far.

Disease control and safeguard measures:

- A stamping-out/non-vaccination policy is applied to control the disease. On 8 November, the National Crisis Centre was informed of a qualified suspicion and, with its approval, arrangements were made for killing and destruction of the flock. On 9 November, all susceptible animals present in the infected flock were therefore killed and destroyed by burial on the spot. Preliminary cleansing and disinfection have been carried out.
- Protection and surveillance zones (with a radius of 3 km and 10 km, respectively) have been established around the outbreak and a standstill on animal movements is being enforced inside these zones. In the immediate future, surveillance will be organised to cover twice weekly clinical inspections of all sheep flocks inside the protection zone and will be supplemented, if required, by collection of samples.
- Until the situation has been clarified, a total ban on the movement of susceptible animals from the entire Prefecture of Evros has been imposed. The ban also covers movements of feed, skins and hides.

*
* *

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN URUGUAY
Follow-up report No. 3

Translation of an e-mail received on 17 November 2000 from Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti, Ministry of Animal Production, Agriculture and Fisheries, Montevideo:

End of previous report period: 9 November 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [44], 204, dated 10 November 2000).

End of this report period: 16 November 2000.

1. Surveillance in the 'outbreak zone' (cleanout area for animals susceptible to foot and mouth disease):

Two inspections are carried out every day to verify and prevent any unauthorized entry of animals susceptible to foot and mouth disease (FMD). Any such animals found to have entered the zone, will be slaughtered and buried in situ.

2. Epidemiological surveillance in the 'peripheral zone':

The second round of screening in the peripheral zone is complete, with 100% of establishments having been inspected.

The third round of screening started on 11 November, with a new clinical inspection of animals and blood sampling of cattle and sheep in all establishments situated within a 5-km-wide band beyond the 'outbreak zone'. To this end, a statistically representative sample of the area under consideration was taken in order to confirm the absence of viral activity.

3. Typing of the virus:

On 14 November 2000, a report was received from the Directorate of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) communicating the results of the tests carried out on the samples of bovine epithelium and sera by 50% complement fixation test, which indicate that the virus is sub-type O₁.

4. Conclusion:

To date, the results of the clinical and serological screening carried out in the surveillance area of the Department of Artigas and in the rest of the country confirm the absence of FMD.

- The disinfection of two authorized abattoirs in the city of Artigas has been completed. The slaughter of animals from the peripheral zone and from the rest of the Department that is free from the disease, can now be resumed, for local consumption in Artigas, and subject to the relevant sanitary restrictions.
- The movement of plant products and products from animals not susceptible to FMD has been permitted since 10 November, but must be accompanied by an authorization issued by the official Veterinary Services of the Department of Artigas.

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.