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### **BLUETONGUE IN ITALY** **Follow-up report No. 1**

*Text of an e-mail received on 17 November 2000 from Dr Romano Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:*

**End of previous report period:** 31 August 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [34], 150, dated 1 September 2000).

**End of this report period:** 5 November 2000.

The disease is confirmed in three regions of Italy: Sardinia, Calabria and Sicily.

**Total number of confirmed outbreaks:**

Location	No. of outbreaks
Calabria region	
- Cosenza province	1
- Crotona province	1
- Reggio Calabria province	167
Sardinia region (provinces of Cagliari, Nuoro, Oristano and Sassari)	4,189*
Sicily region (Palermo province)	9
Total	4,367

\* outbreaks equally distributed among the four provinces of Sardinia island.

**Total number of animals in the outbreaks:**

<i>region</i>	<i>sheep present</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
Calabria	9,933	1,643	383	1,164	0
Sardinia	960,476	92,522	15,243	71,230	0
Sicily	547	61	15	93	0
TOTAL	970,956	94,226	15,641	72,487	0

**Causal agent:** the virus isolated in Calabria, Sardinia and Sicily has been identified as type 2.

**Control measures during reporting period:**

**A. Sanitary measures implemented on the national territory:**

The current provision established by the National Veterinary Services imposes a total ban on the movement of susceptible animals, their ova, semen and embryos from Calabria, Sardinia and Sicily regions to the rest of the national territory or to other countries.

**B. Sanitary measures implemented in the regions affected by the disease:**

- Clinical inspection is carried out in all the flocks of Sardinia and in flocks considered at risk in the other regions affected by the disease (Calabria and Sicily).
- The first detection of clinical signs attributable to the disease in an area with no previous suspected cases should always be confirmed by laboratory test. When there has been a laboratory confirmation in a given area the detection of clinical signs in others flocks located in that area is considered sufficient evidence to declare an outbreak.
- In the event of an outbreak, only the diseased animals are slaughtered and destroyed.
- In Calabria and Sicily regions, blood samples are collected from bovine herds and sheep flocks within a certain radius around the confirmed outbreaks in order to ascertain the extent of the disease.

**C. Measures to be implemented in the near future:**

- In Sardinia region random serological examination will be carried out in flocks affected by the disease and in bovine herds in order to quantify the level of immunity of susceptible animals.
- *Culicoides* traps will be monitored to detect the presence of the vectors during the winter season.
- Sentinel animals will be monitored in the winter season in order to verify virus circulation.

**D. Sanitary measures implemented in the regions of the national territory unaffected by the disease:**

Tracing of all the consignments of susceptible animals dispatched from Sardinia since 1 June 2000. The bovine consignments traced are placed under sanitary restriction and tested for bluetongue whereas flocks are clinically monitored.

In the event of a positive response:

- seropositive imported animals are slaughtered;
- traps for the detection of *Culicoides imicola* are placed around the holding;
- native contact animals are tested for seroconversion.

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**GLANDERS IN BRAZIL**  
**Follow-up report No. 1**

*Text of an e-mail received on 17 November 2000 from Dr Hamilton Ricardo Farias, Director, Department of Animal Defence, Ministry of Agriculture and Supply, Brasilia:*

**End of previous report period:** 20 December 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [49], 183, dated 24 December 1999; see also *OIE Bulletin*, **112** [4], 486).

**End of this report period:** 17 October 2000.

To date, glanders has only been detected in the north-east of Brazil, namely in the States of Alagoas, Ceara, Sergipe, Maranhao, Pernambuco and Piaui.

**New outbreaks:**

Location	No. of outbreaks
Timon municipality*, State of Maranhao	1
Teresina municipality*, State of Piaui	1

\* Teresina and Timon are neighbouring municipalities but located in different States.

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

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
equ	20	4	0	4	0

**Diagnosis:** sera were collected following detection of clinical signs, which were notified as part of the epidemiological surveillance activities.

**A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** LAPA<sup>(1)</sup>, Ministry of Agriculture, Recife.

**B. Diagnostic tests used:** complement fixation test.

**Epidemiology:**

**A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** under investigation.

**B. Mode of spread:** movement of animals between holdings. Horses affected in Timon came from the affected farm in Teresina.

**C. Other epidemiological details:** a cross-sectional serological survey is under way in 11 States, mostly in the Nordeste Region.

**Control measures during reporting period:** the main preventive sanitary measures applied in all affected States are:

- Strict movement control of horses, donkeys and mules from holdings located in any affected State. Animals must be accompanied by a negative test result and come from a herd where all animals have been tested, before a movement permit can be issued. Likewise for horses participating in fairs, auctions or equestrian events.
- Accreditation of glanders free herds.

(1) LAPA: Laboratório de Apoio Animal.

## BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN SPAIN

**(Disease never previously reported).**

### EMERGENCY REPORT

*Translation of a fax from Dr Juan José Badiola, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zaragoza (National Reference Centre for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies), forwarded to the OIE Central Bureau by Dr Quintiliano Pérez Bonilla, Director General of Animal Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid:*

**Report date:** 22 November 2000.

**Nature of diagnosis:** clinical and post-mortem.

### **Identification of the sample:**

The sample, taken from a five-year-old bovine (identification number LU-21492-C) was collected under the programme for monitoring bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the Autonomous Community of Galicia. The animal had presented neurological symptoms.

The sample was submitted by the Animal Health and Production Laboratory<sup>(1)</sup>.

The sample consisted of medulla oblongata and brain stem preserved in 10% formol, which were duly sent for histopathological and immunohistochemical examination.

### **Anatomopathological report:**

#### **A. Histopathological findings:**

- Obex: intense vacuolation in neuropil of the dorsal nucleus of the vagus, solitary tract and spinal tract of the trigeminal nerve. Vacuolation in the pericaryon of the neurons of the dorsal nucleus of the vagus.
- Bridge: intense vacuolation in the pericaryon of the neurons of the vestibular nuclei.
- Mesencephalon: intense generalized vacuolation in neuropil.

#### **B. Immunohistochemical findings:**

An immunohistochemical examination was made of the obex and the following was observed:

- Positive marker located in the neuropil: deposits of the pathological protein PrP<sup>Sc</sup>, which appears to be most marked in the dorsal nucleus of the vagus, the solitary tract, the spinal tract of the trigeminal nerve and the reticular formation.
- Positive marker located in the pericaryon of neurons and axons located principally in the dorsal nucleus of the vagus.

### **Conclusion:**

The histopathological and immunohistochemical findings show that this animal was suffering from bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

This result was confirmed by the VLA Weybridge<sup>(2)</sup> (OIE Reference Laboratory for BSE).

(1) Laboratorio de Sanidad e Producción Animal (registration number of the laboratory: 6518-1), Dirección Xeral de Producción Agropecuaria, Consellería de Agricultura, Ganadería e Política Agroalimentaria, Xunta de Galicia.

(2) Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, United Kingdom.

## **BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN PORTUGAL in the Azores islands**

*Text of a fax received on 23 November 2000 from Dr Rui Marques Leitão, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Lisbon:*

**Report date:** 23 November 2000.

A case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was detected in a Holstein-Friesian cow (identification number I339582) of the island of São Miguel, Azores.

This cow was the subject of emergency slaughter on 2 October 2000 in the abattoir at Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, in the scope of an emergency slaughter and was sampled under the BSE monitoring programme.

### **Diagnosis:**

The sample underwent histopathological examination and immunocytochemistry at the National Laboratory of Veterinary Research, Lisbon, with positive results on 22 November.

### **Epidemiology:**

Epidemiological investigations indicate that the cow was born on 23 September 1995, and was imported to São Miguel on 27 October 1998 from a European country.

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## **FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN URUGUAY Follow-up report No. 4**

*Translation of an e-mail received on 23 November 2000 from Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti, Ministry of Animal Production, Agriculture and Fisheries, Montevideo:*

**End of previous report period:** 16 November 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [45], 208, dated 17 November 2000).

**End of this report period:** 23 November 2000.

### **Epidemiological surveillance in the 'peripheral zone':**

The third round of screening started on 11 November 2000 and is being continued.

The census of all owners of cattle, sheep and pigs in the 'peripheral zone', within a 10-km-wide band beyond the 'cleanout area', is complete.

The activity carried out consisted of a new clinical inspection of animals and blood sampling of animals of susceptible species.

To date, the results of the clinical and serological screening carried out within the surveillance zone corresponding to Artigas Department show the absence of foot and mouth disease. The same has been observed in the rest of the country.

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**RINDERPEST IN PAKISTAN**  
**Follow-up report No. 2**

*Text of an e-mail received on 24 November 2000 from Mr Rifaqat Hussain Raja, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Islamabad:*

**End of previous report period:** 28 October 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [43], 193, dated 3 November 2000).

**End of this report period:** 23 November 2000.

The Veterinary Services have continued epidemiological/serological surveillance in South Karachi and the peripheral zones. Strict livestock movement controls have been observed. Penside kits have been used for random spot testing and samples have been collected for laboratory testing. No cases were observed. To date, the results have been negative for rinderpest.

High alert and restrictions on livestock movements remain in force.

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