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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SOUTH AFRICA Outside the FMD control zone

EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of an e-mail received on 2 December 2000 from Dr Emily Mmamakgaba Mogajane, Chief Director, Agricultural Production, National Department of Agriculture, Pretoria:

Report date: 30 November 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 29 November 2000.

Estimated date of first infection: 20 November 2000.

Background:

Cattle from Arendsfontein farm were sent to the abattoir in Matsapha, Swaziland, on 23 November, and suspicious lesions were found on ante-mortem inspection on 24 November. Samples taken by the Swaziland authorities and dispatched to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI, South Africa) on 28 November were found to be positive for foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus SAT1 on 29 November (see *Disease Information*, **13** [47], 217, dated 1 December 2000).

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Arendsfontein farm (25° 53' 41" S – 29° 34' 02" E), Middelburg district, Mpumalanga province	1

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	12,500	30	0	0	0
sui	52,000	0	0	0	0

Arendsfontein farm is a dedicated feedlot system for cattle and pigs housing 12,500 cattle in the feedlot and 52,000 pigs – both groupings in separate isolated facilities. There is no immediate physical or human contact between the two units.

Diagnosis:

An investigation was immediately made on Arendsfontein farm, on 29 November and clinical lesions were detected in 30 bovines. No clinical disease has been detected in the pig unit.

Samples were dispatched to the OVI and, late during the night of 29 November, were confirmed positive for SAT1 FMD virus. Subsequent samples, submitted on 30 November, also yielded positive results for SAT1 FMD virus. Serological samples taken from the pig unit are thus far all negative.

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI), Exotic Diseases Section.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** liquid phase blocking ELISA⁽¹⁾; 3ABC ELISA; virus neutralisation tests; PCR⁽²⁾; virus isolation on primary porcine kidney cells.
- C. Causal agent:** FMD virus type SAT1. Virus sequencing is being conducted by the OVI; the results should become available on 3 or 4 December 2000.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** the origin of the infection is being investigated.
- B. Mode of spread:** suspected contact with infected animal(s) introduced into the feedlot.
- C. Other epidemiological details:** this is the first occurrence of FMD virus type SAT1 in South Africa outside the FMD control zone since 1957.

Control measures:

- The immediate aim is to minimise virus excretion from the cattle in the feedlot and it was thus decided to commence with vaccination of all the cattle in the feedlot with SAT1 vaccine supplied by the OVI. Vaccination will commence on 1 December and should be completed on 2 December. All the cattle will be re-vaccinated 14 days after the initial vaccination. The vaccination of the cattle is an emergency vaccination in accordance with the guidelines of the *International Animal Health Code*. Slaughtering of the vaccinated cattle will commence 14 days after the revaccination provided no further virus activity is detected.
- The pig unit will be intensively inspected twice daily and also subjected to sero-surveillance until 14 days post vaccination of the feedlot cattle. Strict sanitary control to prevent cross-contamination between the cattle feedlot and pig unit is being maintained.
- A sanitary cordon has been placed on farms within a 3- to 5-km radius around the outbreak, with movement control of animals and animal products backed up by intensive sero-surveillance and daily physical inspections.
- Intensive tracing of all movements to and from the farm Arendsfontein during the past 4–6 weeks is already being conducted.
- Exports of meat from export abattoirs were suspended with immediate effect on 29 November until the trace-back of animal movements has been completed.
- Imports of live cattle from neighbouring countries have been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation into the source of the infection.

The outbreak can be regarded as an isolated incident and currently confined to one farm only.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

(2) PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN MAURITANIA

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of an e-mail received on 7 December 2000 from Dr Mokhtar Fall, Deputy Director, Department of Animal Production and Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development and Environment, Nouakchott:

Report date: 7 December 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 12 November 2000.

Estimated date of first infection: 1 November 2000.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
15° 31' N – 12° 13' W (<i>wilaya</i> of Guidimaka, in the southern part of the country)	1

Description of affected population: bovines of all ages.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	841	124	2	0	0

Diagnosis:

- A. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** the OIE World Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease (Pirbright, United Kingdom).
- B. **Causal agent:** foot and mouth disease virus type O.

Source of agent / origin of infection: the disease was introduced by transhumant herds which stayed in the area.

Control measures: vaccination against foot and mouth disease is currently not applied in Mauritania, although the importation of vaccine to immunise the livestock is being envisaged.

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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN SPAIN

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of the summary of two faxes received on 7 December 2000 from Dr Quintiliano Pérez Bonilla, Director General of Animal Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid:

Report date: 7 December 2000.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 31 August 2000.

Date of laboratory confirmation: 7 December 2000.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Coristanco district, La Coruña province, Galicia Autonomous Community	1

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
15	1	0	15	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Department of Histology and Pathological Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zaragoza (National Reference Centre for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies) and VLA - Weybridge⁽¹⁾ (OIE Reference Laboratory for bovine spongiform encephalopathy).
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** histopathological and immunohistochemical tests.

Epidemiology: the affected animal was subjected to emergency slaughter. Sampling was done within the framework of the activities of "the surveillance programme on animal spongiform encephalopathies in 2000".

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** investigations under way.
- B. Other epidemiological details:** the nearest cattle farm is 30 metres from the affected farm.

Control measures:

- BSE is a notifiable disease in Spain and is subject to an official control programme.
- The other ruminants present in the farm (i.e. 14 bovines) were preventively slaughtered and their carcasses destroyed.

(1) VLA: Veterinary Laboratories Agency of the United Kingdom.

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**BLUETONGUE IN SPAIN
in the Balearic Islands (follow-up report No. 1)**

Extracts from the monthly animal disease reports of Spain for October and November 2000 and a fax received on 7 December 2000 from Dr Quintiliano Pérez Bonilla, Director General of Animal Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid:

End of previous report period: 11 October 2000 (see *Disease Information*, **13** [40], 181, dated 13 October 2000).

End of this report period: 30 November 2000.

Total number of new outbreaks during the month:

October 2000	118
November 2000	166

Location of the outbreaks: islands of Majorca and Minorca.

Total number of susceptible animals in the outbreaks:

<i>month</i>	<i>susceptible animals</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
October 2000	14,248	1,407	549	858	0
November 2000	16,605 (ovi+bov+cap)	850	338	512	0

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