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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SWAZILAND In the traditional buffer zone (Follow-up report No. 4)

Extract from a fax received on 20 January 2001 from Dr Robert S. Thwala, Director of Veterinary and Livestock Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mbabane:

End of previous report period: 13 January 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [3], 16, dated 19 January 2001).

End of this report period: 20 January 2001.

Activities during reporting period:

- **Intensive surveillance:** active inspections continued twice weekly in the quarantine zone conducted by the five teams inside the area, and no further animals were found with foot and mouth disease (FMD) except for 1 at Macakula and 13 at Hlofu. This is a significant decrease in the number of cattle with the disease and an indication that the Macakula outbreak has been brought under control. In the surveillance zone, active surveillance continued with no signs of FMD detected.
- **Modified stamping out:** to date, a total of 433 cattle (comprising 350 from Macakula and 83 from Hlofu) have been destroyed. This means only 1 more animal destroyed at Macakula and 13 at Hlofu. Twenty-four more pigs were destroyed at Hlofu, bringing the total number of pigs destroyed to date at Macakula and Hlofu to 118.
- **Vaccination:** the second vaccination started during the course of the week and to date 3,387 cattle and 1,542 small stock have been revaccinated.
- **Vigilance:** vigilance by veterinary and security personnel at all formal and informal crossings continued, with searching and disinfection of all vehicles and pedestrians going through.
- **Cooperation:** the FMD Emergency Response Committee meetings continued with the full participation and support of all stakeholders, including chiefs and their representatives.

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**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SWAZILAND
In the traditionally free area**

EMERGENCY REPORT

Synthesis of two faxes received on 20 and 22 January 2001 from Dr Robert S. Thwala, Director, Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Mbabane:

Report date: 20 January 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory

Date of clinical diagnosis: 10 January 2001.

Date of laboratory confirmation: 17 January 2001.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Zinyane dip tank area, northern Hhohho region (24° 52' S – 31° 42' E)	1

Unlike the Macakula outbreak (see *Disease Information*, **13** [51], 244, dated 29 December 2000 and follow-up reports), the Zinyane outbreak is in the traditionally foot and mouth disease (FMD) free area of Swaziland, although both outbreaks are limited to the areas along the border with South Africa.

Total number of animals at risk:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	1,597	...	...	191	...
cap	271	...	...	...	...
sui	26	...	...	...	...

Some of the grazing areas of Zinyane and surrounding dip tanks are well fenced off and contact between grazing areas is highly minimised.

Background:

Following the confirmation of an outbreak of FMD on 22 December 2000 at Macakula, six teams led by animal health inspectors and veterinarians were established to intensify surveillance along Swaziland's borders west of Komati River to Matsamo Border Gate in northern Hhohho region, with some teams starting from Komati River and moving north-west, and the others starting from the main road to Matsamo Border Gate and moving south-east.

During this period, starting from 26 December 2000, meetings were held with the communities along the border, advising them on the necessary precautionary measures, namely to graze their animals away from the border fences, to stop all illegal cattle crossings to graze in either country, and to isolate and report any suspected cases of FMD. Visual inspections were carried out weekly with mouching of suspect animals at all the dip tanks to the north of Komati River and the Nyakatfo all-weather road to the junction with the Madlangempisi/Herefords road and turning right to Matsamo Border Gate at its junction with Matsamo/Piggs Peak road.

Diagnosis:

On 10 January 2001, during a stakeholders' meeting called by the Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services and the Constituency Member of Parliament, some suspect animals seen grazing with cattle from a neighbouring country were reported. A team dispatched to investigate reported, that evening, 3 clinical cases in a homestead of 10 animals which were found grazing with cattle that had illegally crossed into Swaziland. The affected animals had lesions on the tongue, gums and feet. These observations were confirmed by another team on 11 January. Tissue and blood samples were taken and all 3 animals along with those in contact, i.e. a total of 15 animals were slaughtered and their carcasses incinerated and buried.

- A. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (South Africa).
- B. **Diagnostic tests used:** blocking ELISA⁽¹⁾, typing ELISA, virus isolation (phosphokinase C) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
- C. **Causal agent:** FMD virus type SAT 1. All serum samples were negative for antibodies against SAT 1, SAT 2 and SAT 3 at less than 1.5. One tissue sample was positive for SAT 1 on virus isolation, PCR and typing ELISA.

Policy adopted:

A stamping-out policy has been adopted, with the understanding of the communities and their traditional and political leadership of the implications to trade of any alternative approaches in the containment and eradication of the disease. As in the Macakula outbreak, the Government has assured the farmers of compensatory consideration.

Activities during the period: activities to control and eradicate the disease were based on clinical diagnosis without waiting for laboratory confirmation.

1. **Stamping-out:** a total of 191 cattle at the Mhlangatane grazing area within the cordoned off *outbreak area* of Zinyane were slaughtered and their carcasses incinerated and buried, including contact animals in the affected homesteads. Tissue and serum samples were taken before destruction of the animals.

2. **Quarantine and surveillance zones** were imposed immediately:

- **Quarantine zone:** an area 10-15 km inland from the *outbreak area* was placed under quarantine. There are a total of 22,106 cattle in the *quarantine zone*. This zone is delimited by the border with South Africa (36 km long) in the north-east, the Matsamo Border Gate road and the Ngonini/Herefords road in the west and north-west, and the Nyakatfo road and Komati River in the south. For the purposes of effective control and monitoring, the use of natural barriers and all-weather roads has been exploited.

A fence 15 km long and 5 km in from the national border and delimiting the *outbreak area* within the *quarantine zone* is being erected to limit the spread of the disease to other grazing areas and dip tanks further into the interior of the country. Stock have been separated further by grazing areas.

Inspection teams are moving from homestead to homestead, mousing and destroying all animals that have been in contact with affected herds.

In the next week serological sampling teams will join the inspection teams and start operating throughout the *quarantine zone* to clinically and serologically determine the FMD status of the herds in the different grazing areas and dip tanks outside the *outbreak area*.

Animals and animal product movements between grazing areas and dip tank areas and into and out of the *quarantine zone* are prohibited and enforceable with the assistance and cooperation of the community members who have teamed up with our enforcement officials and members of the security forces.

- The *surveillance zone* extends in the area south of Komati River along the Mananga/Madlangempisi road to Jacks and down to Mgobodzi along the Matsamo/Ntfontjeni main road. Active surveillance with restricted stock movements will be applied in all 21 dip tanks in this area, which extends for some 20-30 km from the *outbreak area*.

Control points manned by veterinary and security personnel have been established at roadblocks along the boundaries of the *quarantine* and *surveillance zones* for both searching and disinfecting of people and vehicles passing through.

Trade implications:

1. This outbreak area is in the traditionally FMD free area of Swaziland that is part of the trade agreements with the European Union (EU). It essentially spells temporary loss of trade for Swaziland with the EU, unless it is controlled speedily. The use of vaccination would even prolong the resumption of trade, with serious consequences for the farmers in this area.
2. Trade in the areas outside the FMD restricted or controlled areas should continue normally without interruption.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ISRAEL

(*Date of last previously reported outbreak:* September 1999).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of an e-mail received on 22 January 2001 from Dr Oded Nir, Director of Veterinary and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Beit Dagan:

Report date: 22 January 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 18 January 2001.

Estimated date of first infection: 17 January 2001.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
locality of Netiv-Hashayara, district of Acre (Akko), approx. 10 km from the border with Lebanon	1

Description of affected population: elderly sheep vaccinated against foot and mouth disease virus type O Dalton 12 months before.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
ovi	140	7	0	0	0

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Kimron Veterinary Institute.

B. Diagnostic tests used: complement fixation test, ELISA⁽¹⁾, polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

C. Causal agent: FMD virus type O Dalton.

Source of agent / origin of infection: most probably animal movement from a neighbouring country.

Control measures: quarantine and movement control inside the country; vaccination.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

RABBIT HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN CUBA

(*Date of last previously reported outbreak:* 1997).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of a fax received on 23 January 2001 from Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Director General of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Ministry of Agriculture, Havana:

Report date: 15 January 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, epidemiological and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 28 December 2000.

Estimated date of first infection: 21 December 2000.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
La Lisa municipality, Havana City province	1
San José municipality, Havana province	2

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
lep	306	43	43	...	263

Diagnosis:

When a sudden high mortality rate occurred in a production unit for private consumption, rabbit haemorrhagic disease was immediately suspected because of the clinical signs present, and when the first cases of adult rabbits (alive or dead) were received with a known clinical history the following procedures were followed:

- clinical observations were carried out;
- blood samples were taken for haematological investigation;
- all of the animals were subjected to a rigorous anatomopathological examination and post-mortem examinations were carried out in accordance with the technique required for this species;
- fragments of various organs were selected for histopathological examination and bacteriological investigation, in order to rule out other diseases;
- liver and spleen samples were taken under aseptic conditions from the various animals in order to carry out a haemagglutination test with type O human erythrocytes;
- other samples were collected in order to carry out observations by electron microscopy.

The evaluation of case histories and epidemiological data, together with the anatomopathological and histopathological observations and the results of the haemagglutination test, led to a strong suspicion of the disease, which was corroborated by the results of electron microscopy.

Control and surveillance measures adopted to date: when rabbit haemorrhagic disease was suspected, immediate action was taken.

- A disease emergency was declared in the provinces of Havana and Havana City, and a disease alert was issued in the provinces of Pinar del Río and Matanzas.
- Epidemiological surveillance and information campaigns were stepped up nation-wide.
- A ban was declared on the movement of rabbits in and around the outbreaks.
- Radical measures were applied in and around the outbreaks and the necessary sanitary measures were adopted, both to prevent the disease from spreading and to protect major centres in the country.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN URUGUAY
Restoration of free status without vaccination

Communication dated 25 January 2001 from the OIE Central Bureau:

The OIE Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission evaluated documentation concerning the eradication of foot and mouth disease, submitted by the Delegate of Uruguay, and, in accordance with Resolution No. XVII ("Restoration of recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries") adopted by the OIE International Committee during its 65th General Session (May 1997), recognised on 25 January 2001 that Uruguay has regained its previously recognised status of FMD free country where vaccination is not practised.

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