

## Contents

Newcastle disease in Mexico

31

### NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN MEXICO

#### EMERGENCY REPORT

*Translation of an e-mail received on 2 February 2001 from Dr Angel Omar Flores Hernández, Delegate of Mexico to the OIE:*

**Report date:** 29 January 2001.

**Nature of diagnosis:** laboratory.

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

**Date of confirmatory diagnosis:** 22 January 2001.

#### Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
district of Gómez Palacio, state of Durango (in "La Laguna" region)	1

**Description of affected population:** a production unit of female rearing chicks, located at a distance of 1.5 km from the nearest poultry farm.

#### Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
avi	10,050	250	250	9,800	0

#### Diagnosis:

**A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** High Security Laboratory of the CPA<sup>(1)</sup>.

**B. Diagnostic tests used:** inoculation into embryonated eggs; haemagglutination tests; intracerebral inoculation into day-old chicks.

**C. Causal agent:** velogenic virus. Intracerebral pathogenicity index: 2.0.

**Epidemiology:** the owner of the affected farm reported an increase in the mortality rate on the farm as from 15 January 2001. When the farm was inspected, a relaxation was noted in the biosecurity measures, including an increase in the number of domestic pigeons living close to the farm.

**Control measures:** as soon as an outbreak of Newcastle disease was suspected, the health authorities of the General Directorate for Animal Health, together with personnel from DINESA<sup>(2)</sup> and poultry farmers, held a technical meeting.

- Stamping-out policy:** even before the laboratory confirmation of the diagnosis had been received, it was decided to apply stamping-out measures (with destruction and immediate burial of the carcasses) to the entire susceptible population of the affected farm, on 18 and 19 January, as well as to clean and disinfect all of the installations and equipment.

It was also decided to cull all the domestic pigeons.

2. Quarantine in the focal and perifocal areas: in the focal area (2 km) and the perifocal area (10 km), the control measures include quarantine and a ban on the movement of animals, animal products and by-products, as well as equipment and implements used in the livestock industry.
3. Vaccination: vaccination of backyard poultry within the focal and perifocal areas was completed.
4. Epidemiological surveillance: a situation assessment was instigated in the region, with sampling and laboratory testing of dead poultry, in addition to active epidemiological surveillance measures in commercial poultry farms and backyard farms within the area under epidemiological alert.
5. Control of movements from La Laguna region: the movement of birds, poultry products and by-products from the region, excluding the quarantine area, was authorized on a case-by-case basis under strict official supervision, a measure that will be strictly maintained for 21 days as from 19 January.

Up to now, no further suspected outbreak of the disease has been detected.

(1) CPA: Mexican-American Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Other Exotic Animal Diseases.

(2) DINESA: National Animal Health Emergency Mechanism.

#### FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 1

*Translation of an extract from an e-mail received on 13 February 2001 from Dr Angel Omar Flores Hernández, Delegate of Mexico to the OIE:*

**End of this report period:** 13 February 2001.

#### ***Updated information on control measures:***

1. Sentinelization: sentinel animals were placed in the affected establishment, as well as in four poultry farms located within the focal area.
2. Vaccination: a vaccination schedule continued to be applied in 100% of poultry farms, as well as to backyard poultry, involving the use of live and inactivated modified virus vaccines (emulsified).
3. Epidemiological surveillance:
  - In the focal area: the farms are inspected daily.
  - In the perifocal area: the farms are inspected twice a week.

In both cases, samples are taken and a clinical assessment is made. Any clinical or laboratory suspicion is immediately notified to the Veterinary Services.

4. Control of movements from La Laguna region: from 19 January to 9 February, 792 official permits were issued, subject to risk analysis, for the movement of birds and bird products and by-products bound for Newcastle disease free areas or areas where the disease is under control and eradication. Quarantine applied to the La Laguna Region was lifted on 10 February, 21 days having elapsed since the slaughter of the remaining birds in the outbreak, cleaning and disinfection of installations and equipment and the launching of a programme of sentinel birds and epidemiological surveillance.

As in any free zone, a permanent programme of epidemiological surveillance is being maintained in all commercial poultry farms and a statistically representative sample of non-commercial domestic birds (backyard poultry).

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.