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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN MONGOLIA

EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of a fax received on 19 February 2001 from Dr Ravdan Sanjaatogtokh, Director, State Veterinary Services, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ulaanbaatar:

Report date: 19 February 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 10 February 2001.

Estimated date of first infection: 18 January 2001.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
province of Sukhbaatar (in the eastern part of the country)	3
province of Dornod (in the eastern part of the country)	6

Description of affected population: farm animals kept outdoors.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	5,799	655	96	49	0
ovi	16,330	2	0	2	0
cap	6,690	0	0	0	0
cml	205	0	0	0	0

Diagnosis:

- A. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** State Central Veterinary Laboratory, Ulaanbaatar.
- B. **Diagnostic tests used:** complement fixation test.
- C. **Causal agent:** virus type O.

Epidemiology:

- A. **Source of agent / origin of infection:** investigations are under way.
- B. **Mode of spread:** contact with sick animals, and by domestic and wild animals and other means of virus transmission.

Control measures: quarantine and movement control inside the two affected provinces. Modified stamping-out and ring vaccination have begun.

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**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SWAZILAND
In the traditionally free zone (Follow-up report No. 2)**

Extract from a fax received on 20 February 2001 from Dr Robert S. Thwala, Director, Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Mbabane:

End of previous report period: 28 January 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [6], 27, dated 9 February 2001).

End of this report period: 4 February 2001.

Policy adopted:

- ring vaccination with trivalent SAT 1, 2 and 3 foot and mouth disease vaccine from Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (South Africa);
- branding of all vaccinated animals;
- selective destruction of all animals with the clinical signs of the disease;
- destruction of pigs in all affected areas;
- identification, isolation and testing of suspect animals.

Activities during the report period:

1. All quarantine measures remained in place.
2. Active surveillance was intensified in the confluence of the common grazing areas of the immediate contact dip tanks of Ntsinini, Bazara, Shumi, Manjengeni and Magonigoni with Zinyane, which is along the Mhlangatane river basin.
On 29 January, 20 cattle were found to be positive at Ntsinini and all were destroyed. On 30 January, 2 cattle were found to be positive in Bazara in a homestead of 10 and all 10 were destroyed under veterinary supervision.
During the period, a total of 130 cattle were destroyed in both Ntsinini and Bazara dip tanks, bringing the total destroyed to date in the Zinyane/Ntsinini/Bazara grazing confluence to 519 cattle.
3. On 31 January, it was resolved to apply a modified stamping-out policy with effect from 1 February 2001, i.e.:
 - ring vaccination;
 - destruction of clinically affected animals within the quarantine zone;
 - an intensification of active surveillance in the surveillance zone with an increase of the operational teams led by veterinarians to four.
4. By the end of the reporting period, 4,570 cattle had been vaccinated.
5. The Department and Government continue to involve stakeholders in the control and management of the outbreak through stakeholder meetings and information dissemination through various media channels.
6. The cooperation and support of farming and livestock rearing communities continues to be adequate, particularly with regard to:

- continuing with the cordon fence rehabilitation along the border;
 - bringing animals for vaccination, with a high turn-up of animals during vaccination.
7. The rehabilitation of the inner cordon fence along the border has now extended some 42 km.
 8. Inspection teams in the surveillance areas continued to operate, and no clinical cases of disease were found in these areas during this period.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM / GREAT BRITAIN

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: 1981).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Summary of two faxes received on 21 and 22 February 2001 from Dr J.M. Scudamore, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London:

Report date: 22 February 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, post-mortem and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 19 February 2001.

Estimated date of first infection: 16 February 2001.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 20 February 2001.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
County of Essex	3

Description of affected population:

- Outbreak No. 2001/01: clinical signs in 27 sows and 1 boar in the lairage of an abattoir near Brentwood, Essex;
- Outbreak No. 2001/02: clinical signs in 1 bull on an 18- to 24-month-old fattening cattle farm in the neighbourhood (1 mile) of outbreak 2001/01;
- Outbreak No. 2001/03: clinical signs in 6 cattle in a beef suckler herd located 1 km from outbreak 2001/01.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
bov	231	7	0	231	0
sui	346	28	0	346	0

Diagnosis: suspicion of disease was first reported in pigs in the abattoir (outbreak 2001/01) on 19 February 2001 and tissue samples from affected animals were submitted to laboratory the same day.

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, Surrey (OIE World Reference Laboratory (WRL) for foot and mouth disease).
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), virus typing.
- C. Causal agent:** FMD virus serotype O, "Pan Asian" strain.

Epidemiology:

- A. **Source of agent / origin of infection:** the origin of the virus is unknown.
- B. **Mode of spread:** the first and the third outbreaks have direct links in that some of the cattle on the farm (outbreak 2001/03) belong to the owner of the abattoir (outbreak 2001/01).
- C. **Other epidemiological details:** epidemiological investigations are under way to identify the source of the outbreaks and to trace any animals which may have been in contact with the affected livestock.

Control measures: in accordance with the measures foreseen in European Council Directive 85/511/EEC:

- Stamping-out policy: all animals in outbreaks 2001/01 and 2001/02 have been destroyed. In outbreak 2001/03 the six affected cattle are being killed on the farm on 22 February and the remainder will be killed on 23 February, and arrangements are being made to dispose of the carcasses by incineration on the farm.
- Protection and surveillance zones with a minimum radius of 3 km and 10 km have been established around the outbreaks.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ARGENTINA
Creation of an "FMD free zone where vaccination is practised"

Translation of a fax received on 21 February 2001 from Dr Oscar Alejandro Bruni, Delegate of Argentina to the OIE:

Report date: 21 February 2001.

Since August 2000, the epidemiological situation in the sub-region points to the need to consider a new approach to foot and mouth disease (FMD) control, involving a more integrated approach among the countries of the region, and to adopt measures that are more appropriate for its geographic and production conditions.

This has led Argentina to implement new control mechanisms until a change occurs in the variables that generate risk factors in the region. The mechanisms for maintaining Argentina's current status as an "FMD free country where vaccination is not practised", based on the results of risk analysis, make it necessary to reduce the potential for virus spread and exposure to the virus, for which tighter zoning-system measures need to be applied.

These measures are based on the following general aims:

1. To neutralize the risk of the introduction and spread of the FMD virus from outside the country and, consequently, exposure to the virus through movements, by creating FMD free zones with temporary, controlled vaccination, in the form of a *border buffer zone* and a *restriction zone*. The aim is to keep the great majority of the country's livestock in their current status of "FMD free without vaccination", while at the same time meeting the sanitary requirements of production and livestock movement systems in a country, such as Argentina, which has a large surface area and in which livestock production is primarily extensive.
2. To establish a system of animal traceability which will also ensure detailed identification of establishments of origin and destination, a fundamental factor in strictly controlling the risk of FMD spreading in a country with massive livestock movements and well-defined rearing and fattening zones.
3. To complete the epidemiological information with targeted serological monitoring at an opportune time and place and in an opportune manner, to provide surveillance of the health status of the established zones, as well as to provide a means for rapidly and securely identifying any alteration in health status. The documentation with the respective serological results will be sent in due course.

Conclusions

Argentina wishes to report that, for the reasons explained above, as from 1 March 2001 and for as long as is considered necessary, the country will maintain its status of "FMD free country where vaccination is not practised" but adding a *border buffer zone* and a *restriction zone*, categorised as "FMD free zones where vaccination is practised".

Argentina is requesting neighbouring countries in the region to apply complementary and coordinated measures whilst these provisional measures are being enforced, in order to mitigate, within a multilateral framework, the risk of FMD. Moreover, Argentina is proposing to international organizations in the region, such as PAHO⁽¹⁾ and IICA⁽²⁾, technical cooperation for establishing a joint regional programme. In the case of the OIE, Argentina plans to propose a number of measures, such as amending the *International Animal Health Code* to take into account certain specificities of livestock production in South America, and promoting more active OIE participation in any technical commissions that are established, in order to maintain more direct, up-to-date and regular information about the region's epidemiological situation.

(1) PAHO: Pan-American Health Organization.

(2) IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Note by the OIE Central Bureau: in view of this change in strategy, the status of Argentina as "an FMD free country where vaccination is not practised", recognised in May 2000, is suspended.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN HONDURAS

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: July 2000).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of a fax received on 21 February 2001 from Dr Francisco Rodas Chavarría, Director General, National Animal and Plant Health Service (SENASA), Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), Tegucigalpa:

Report date: 20 February 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical, post-mortem and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 30 January 2001.

Estimated date of first infection: 8 December 2000.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Francisco Morazán Department	1
Cortés Department	1

Description of affected population:

- The farm located in Francisco Morazán Department is comprised of three sectors: sector 1 presented no problem, with a mortality rate of 4.0%, sector 2 suffered a mortality rate of 22%, and sector 3 was apparently not affected, although the mortality rate was 9%.
- The farm in Cortés Department presented a mortality rate of 9%.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
avi	452,000	45,430	...	45,430	...

Diagnosis: on 8 February 2001 a preliminary diagnosis on the premises in sector 2 was positive for mesogenic Newcastle disease virus. Samples were submitted for confirmation and on 20 February 2001 a report of velogenic viscerotropic virus was received.

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Honduran Institute of Veterinary Medical Research and USDA-APHIS-NVSL⁽¹⁾ laboratory at Ames, Iowa, United States of America.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** virus isolation test in 9- to 11-day embryos (inoculation into the amniotic-allantoic chamber).
- C. Causal agent:** velogenic viscerotropic Newcastle disease virus.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** the production units affected are located in areas under control and constant active epidemiological surveillance, in which outbreaks were reported in June 2000; they are therefore considered to be secondary outbreaks.
- B. Mode of spread:** the affected farms are considered to have high biosafety standards. An investigation is under way to try to determine how the agent could have entered, in view of the fact that this zone has been subject to regular vaccination against Newcastle disease every six weeks and no cases had occurred since June 2000.
- C. Other epidemiological details:** the other birds on the premises presented no problem and were taken to the slaughterhouse at the optimum slaughter age and with the expected weight. The decision to immediately slaughter the affected birds was therefore the right decision, together with the strengthening of movement control, the handling of dead birds and the cleaning and disinfection programmes.

Control measures: the affected establishments have been placed under quarantine and all the appropriate sanitary measures (partial stamping-out, intensifying biosafety measures, control of internal movements) have been applied.

These establishments have now been restocked, are under official surveillance and their birds are healthy.

(1) USDA-APHIS-NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture of the United States of America.

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**CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN AUSTRIA
in wild boar**

(Date of most recent previous outbreak reported in wild boar: November 2000).

Extract from the monthly animal health status report of Austria relating to January 2001, received from Dr Peter Weber, Chief Veterinary Officer, Federal Chancellery, Vienna:

One outbreak of classical swine fever in wild boar was reported in Gänserndorf district, Lower Austria.

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