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MAEDI-VISNA (DETECTION OF SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES) AND SUSPICION OF OVINE PULMONARY ADENOMATOSIS IN ARGENTINA

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of information received on 21 June 2001 from Dr Bernardo Gabriel Cané, President, National Service for Agrifood Health and Quality (SENASA), Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, Buenos Aires:

Report date: 21 June 2001.

The President of SENASA reported the detection of positive serology to maedi-visna and histopathological diagnosis compatible with an atypical form of ovine pulmonary adenomatosis in Milchaf breed sheep on a farm in the district of El Bolsón, in the province of Rio Negro.

The suspected case was reported to the Animal Health Unit of the National Institute for Agricultural Technologies (INTA) at Bariloche, resulting in the intervention of the SENASA Local Unit confirming the clinical suspicions.

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratories where diagnosis was made:

- A serological diagnosis compatible with maedi-visna was carried out by the SENASA National Reference Laboratory.
- The Animal Health Unit of INTA at Bariloche carried out a histopathological diagnosis of lesions compatible with ovine pulmonary adenomatosis.

B. Diagnostic tests used: the agar gel method immunodiffusion test was used to detect maedi-visna.

Epidemiology: investigations under way.

Control measures: the farm was cordoned off and placed under investigation. Epidemiological studies have been initiated to clarify the situation of these diseases at the national level.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN IRELAND
The Delegate declares the country free from this disease

Information received on 22 June 2001 from Dr Michael Colm Gaynor, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Dublin:

End of previous report period: 1 April 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [14], 76, dated 6 April 2001).

End of this report period: 22 June 2001.

The following measures were applied in Ireland to prevent the introduction of foot and mouth disease (FMD) from the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands, to stamp out the disease outbreak in Ireland and to conduct serological surveillance for FMD.

1. Risk of infection from import of livestock from other FMD infected Member States of the European Union

United Kingdom

A ban on the import of live susceptible species and of their products (except if appropriately treated) from the United Kingdom, was imposed on 21 February 2001 following confirmation of the first outbreak of FMD in that country.

All imports of live susceptible species from the United Kingdom from 1 February (the estimated earliest possible date of infection in the United Kingdom) were traced, as follows:

Species	Consignments	Animals
bov	0	0
ovi	4	1,501
sui	78	13,115

All susceptible species on the premises of destination of the sheep were clinically examined and serological samples taken from the sheep. All imported and in-contact animals were then slaughtered, as a precaution. All test results were negative.

All consignments of pigs were from Northern Ireland, and had been consigned directly to one of four slaughter plants. Records of animals slaughtered were examined and verified.

France

A ban on the import of live susceptible species and of their products (except if appropriately treated) from France, was imposed on 14 March 2001 following the first confirmed outbreak in that country.

All imports of live susceptible species from France from 16 February were traced, as follows:

Species	Consignments	Animals
bov	2	6
ovi	0	0
sui	0	0

All susceptible species on the premises of destination of the cattle were clinically examined and observed for at least 21 days after import. No clinical signs of FMD were observed.

The Netherlands

A ban on the import of live susceptible species and of their products (except if appropriately treated) from the Netherlands, was imposed on 21 March 2001 following the first confirmed outbreak in that country.

All imports of live susceptible species from the Netherlands from 20 February were traced, as follows:

Species	Consignments	Animals
bov	2	68
ovi	0	0
sui	0	0

All susceptible species on the premises of destination of the cattle were clinically examined and observed for at least 21 days after import. No clinical signs of FMD were found.

2. Passive surveillance

From 21 February to 21 June 2001, a total of 159 reports of suspicion of clinical signs of FMD were received from 26 of 27 counties in the country. In 44 of these cases, FMD could not be ruled out, and samples were taken for virus isolation and serology at the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, United Kingdom. One case was confirmed as FMD positive (Outbreak Number FMD2001/1), and 43 were negative.

3. Outbreak Number 2001/1 in United Kingdom/Northern Ireland

Following the confirmation of FMD in sheep at a premises in Meigh, County Armagh, United Kingdom /Northern Ireland, on 1 March 2001, at a distance of approximately 2 km from the border with Ireland, the following measures were applied in that area of the border adjoining Northern Ireland:

- Establishment of a 3-km protection zone (which was later extended in area) and a 10-km surveillance zone in County Louth, on the border with Northern Ireland.
- Census of all susceptible species within the zones.

Protection Zone		Surveillance Zone	
Cattle	3,300	Cattle	5,300
Sheep	18,500	Sheep	20,700
Goats	13	Goats	13
Pigs	14	Pigs	0
Deer	250	Deer	0

- Clinical examination of all animals within the protection zone and a proportion of those in the surveillance zone.
- Cull of all sheep and goats within the zones.
- Serology on cattle herds within the zones.

4. Outbreak Number 2001/1 in Ireland

FMD was confirmed in a holding in Broughattin, Co. Louth, Ireland, on 22 March 2001. This holding was 8 km south of the infected premises in Northern Ireland. The holding had been subject to the nation-wide ban on movement of susceptible species since 28 February, and was located within the protection zone of the outbreak in Northern Ireland and therefore subject to periodic clinical inspections. The following measures were applied following the outbreak:

- Extension of the existing surveillance zone (the protection zone was already in place).
- Identification of additional holdings containing susceptible species within the extended zones.

Protection Zone		Surveillance Zone	
Cattle	5,724	Cattle	15,148
Sheep	23,640	Sheep	26,192
Pigs	14	Pigs	0
Goats	17	Goats	13
Deer	265	Deer	0

- Slaughter and burial on-site of all susceptible species on the infected premises within 24 hours (clinically affected animals were slaughtered on suspicion).

- Epidemiological investigation into the source of infection and possible spread from the infected premises.
- Cleaning and disinfection of the infected premises.
- Cull of all susceptible species within 1 km of the infected premises within 36 hours (32 holdings: 486 cattle and 3,395 sheep) and disposal by rendering.
- Extension of cull to all sheep within an area of 160 km² (the whole of the Cooley Peninsula) and disposal by rendering.
- Extension of cull to all wild goats and deer in an area of 160 km² (the whole of the Cooley Peninsula) and disposal by rendering (273 goats, 5 deer).
- Clinical examination and random serology of culled animals (4,400 samples from sheep, 114 from wild goats, 3 from wild deer).
- Clinical examination and serology on all susceptible species remaining on holdings within the protection zone (795 samples from cattle).
- Clinical examination and serology of all sheep and goats, and random clinical examination and serology of cattle remaining in the surveillance zone (7,062 samples: 5,783 cattle, 1,273 sheep, 6 goats).

The results of the clinical and serological examinations carried out during the cull showed that two holdings, contiguous to the infected premises, had positive serology in single animals with no clinical signs. In addition, two wild goats of a group of 25 animals found in close proximity to the infected premises were also positive on serology with no evidence of clinical signs.

The results of the epidemiological investigation showed that the virus had been introduced between 25 February and 6 March, and had been transmitted from one group of ewes to a second group on the infected premises around the second week in March. Clinical signs were subsequently observed in the second group of animals. The source of the virus has not been confirmed, but there is strong circumstantial evidence that it was via people or animal contacts between the infected premises in Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland, and a neighbouring farm to the infected premises in Co. Louth. Gene sequencing tests on the virus showed it to be FMD serotype O, Pan Asia, virtually identical to that isolated from the outbreak in Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland— thus supporting this theory. Police investigations into the probable source are continuing.

5. Control measures applied in the restricted zones

The following measures were applied in the protection and surveillance zones:

- Prohibition on the transport of FMD susceptible species.
- Ban on gatherings of susceptible species (including markets, fairs, shows).
- Identification and isolation of all holdings containing susceptible species.
- Ban on the movement of susceptible species into, out of and within the zones.
- Prohibition on artificial insemination.
- Extra hygiene precautions on milk collection vehicles (dedicated vehicles, virus filters, dedicated processing plant).

The protection zone was lifted on 12 April and the surveillance zone was lifted on 30 April, following the completion of a final round of clinical examinations and serological testing of animals remaining in the zones, with negative results.

6. Control measures in the remainder of the country

The following measures were introduced throughout the whole territory of Ireland:

- Extensive controls on vehicles at the border with the United Kingdom / Northern Ireland and at ports and airports using police, military and Department of Agriculture officials.
- Disinfection of vehicles at the border and of vehicles and personnel at ports and airports.
- Ban on markets and other gatherings of susceptible species from 26 February.
- Ban on movements of susceptible species from 28 February (except directly to slaughter from 6 March, or for welfare reasons from 8 March).
- Cleaning and disinfection of transport vehicles following transport of susceptible species.
- Increased personnel in slaughter plants for the purpose of detailed ante-mortem examination of sheep.

- Intensive public information programme directed at farmers, veterinarians and the general public.

7. Active surveillance - National Serological Survey in Sheep

In view of the difficulties in detection of the Pan Asia strain of virus in sheep on clinical examination, a national serological survey of the sheep population of 7 million animals commenced in May. This is in addition to the 23,000 samples taken from the control zones in County Louth and from suspect and traced holdings in the rest of the country.

The survey is based on the recommendations for serological surveillance found in the "Guide to the Establishment and Maintenance of FMD Free Zone or Country" which was circulated at the OIE/FAO International Scientific Conference on FMD on 17-18 April 2001.

The survey commenced on 8 May. As of 22 June, 93,707 samples from 2,102 flocks representing all counties in the country have been tested, with negative results.

The recommendations in the aforementioned Guide are that the number of flocks to be sampled should be at least sufficient to give a confidence level of 95% of detecting infection if present in 1% of flocks. In accordance with recognised statistical methods, this would put the number of flocks required for Ireland to sample as 308 out of a population of 38,325 flocks. As can be seen from the 2,102 flocks sampled, our surveillance has exceeded the recommendations stated.

Each epidemiological unit within the flock is sampled at a rate ensuring 95% confidence level of detecting infection assuming a 5% prevalence of seroconversion.

Samples are tested using the LPB ELISA test at the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, Dublin. Samples that are positive on screening are further tested using the virus neutralisation test, at the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, United Kingdom.

8. Conclusion

Three months have now elapsed since the case of FMD was confirmed and, accordingly, in accordance with Article 2.1.1.6. of the *International Animal Health Code*, Ireland now regains its status as an "FMD free country where vaccination is not practised".

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN FRANCE
The Delegate declares the country free from this disease

Translation of information received on 22 June 2001 from Dr Isabelle Chmitelin, Deputy Director General, General Directorate for Food, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Paris:

End of previous report period: 16 May 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [20], 121, dated 18 May 2001).

End of this report period: 22 June 2001.

France experienced two outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD), on 13 March and 23 March 2001.

To control the disease, the French authorities applied a stamping-out policy and serological surveillance. No vaccination was practised, this having continued to be prohibited throughout the territory of France.

As soon as each outbreak was discovered, the following actions were undertaken:

1. Slaughter and destruction of all animals of susceptible species present on the farm. The last animal was slaughtered on 23 March, i.e. exactly three months ago.
2. Establishment of protection (3 km) and surveillance (10 km) zones around the outbreak, within which animal movement restrictions were applied. In addition to the measures previously described, the following were applied within the protection zone (3 km around the outbreak):
 - a ban on transporting animals, whatever the species;
 - a ban on animals of susceptible species being put out to pasture.
3. Epidemiological surveys including serological and clinical surveillance of animals in the protection and surveillance zones.
4. Setting up of serological surveillance in resident sheep and transhumant sheep farms having no connection with farms into which sheep from other infected European Union member States had been introduced or in which outbreaks occurred, in order to check that the FMD virus is no longer circulating in France*.

To date, more than 7,750 sera corresponding to 280 farms have been analysed. All the results have proved negative.

In conclusion, since no new outbreak of FMD has occurred in France for three months, and the provisions of article 2.1.1.6. of the *International Animal Health Code* have been respected, as of today France again meets the necessary conditions to recover its status as an "FMD free country where vaccination is not practised".

* A copy of the survey protocol can be obtained on request from the OIE Central Bureau.

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN SPAIN
Follow-up report No. 2

Translation of information received on 25 and 29 June 2001 from Dr Ignacio Sánchez Esteban, Deputy Director General of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid:

End of previous report period: 21 June 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [25], 150, dated 22 June 2001).

End of this report period: 29 June 2001.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Golmés district, Lérida province, Catalonia Autonomous Community	1
Penellés district, Lérida province, Catalonia Autonomous Community	1
Castellserá district, Lérida province, Catalonia Autonomous Community	1

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: fattening and breeding pigs.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
sui	5,213	1,019	52	5,161	0

Zoning of classical swine fever in Spain

Translation of information received on 27 June 2001 from Dr Ignacio Sánchez Esteban, Deputy Director General of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid:

The Standing Veterinary Committee (SVC) of the European Union, which met on 22 June 2001, issued a favourable opinion on the draft Decision concerning certain protection measures against classical swine fever in Spain in derogation of Decision 2001/457/EC.

This Decision prohibits the export of live pigs, as well as porcine embryos, ova and semen, from the Catalan provinces of Tarragona, Lérida and Girona, from the Valencian province of Castellón de la Plana and from the veterinary districts of Binéfar, Fraga and Tamarite de Litera, in the province of Huesca. This measure will remain in force until at least 15 July 2001. The remainder of Spanish territory is free from restrictions on the movement of live pigs and porcine embryos, ova and semen, as the SVC considers that there is no risk of the disease spreading, either within Spain or to other Member States, due to the wider use of zoning measures to deal with the classical swine fever outbreak in Spain.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN ITALY
The Delegate declares the country free from this disease

Information received on 26 June 2001 from Dr Romano Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

Report date: 26 June 2001.

Under the terms of Article 2.1.15.2 of the *International Animal Health Code*, Italy can be considered free from Newcastle disease, since six months have elapsed after the slaughtering of the last affected animal, and since Italy is a country where a stamping-out policy is applied against Newcastle disease, with or without vaccination.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ARGENTINA
Follow-up report No. 16

Translation of information received on 27 June 2001 from Dr Bernardo Gabriel Cané, President, National Service for Agrifood Health and Quality (SENASA), Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, Buenos Aires:

End of previous report period: 16 June 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [25], 151, dated 22 June 2001).

End of this report period: 23 June 2001.

New outbreaks: during the week from 17 to 23 June 2001, a total of 86 outbreaks of foot and mouth disease were confirmed clinically and by laboratory tests in cattle in various districts and departments in provinces of Argentina. The number of affected animals is 4,021, out of 94,122 animals exposed to the risk of infection.

Total number of outbreaks confirmed up to 23 June 2001: 1,429.

Control measures:

- Animal movement restrictions are still being applied in the outbreaks, in the areas around the outbreaks and in the surveillance zones. These measures include a temporary ban on gatherings of animals for trade, whatever the destination and purpose.
- Primary vaccination against FMD is being performed in accordance with the provisions of the Eradication Programme, and is due to be completed in late June or early July, depending on the climatic conditions prevailing in the different parts of the country.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN GERMANY

(*Date of last previously reported outbreak in domestic pigs*: July 2000).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 28 June 2001 from Prof. Dr Werner Zwingmann, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

Report date: 28 June 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 27 June 2001.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Soltau-Fallingbostel, Lower Saxony <i>Land</i>	1

Description of affected population: holding for breeding.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
sui	822	1	1	821	0

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: European Union Reference Laboratory for classical swine fever, Hannover.

B. Diagnostic tests used: direct immunofluorescence.

Source of agent / origin of infection: not yet known. Investigations are in progress.

Control measures:

- The remaining animals were slaughtered and will be destroyed in rendering plants.
- Prohibition on movements of animals of susceptible species in an area around the infected holding.
- Tracing of animal movements into and out of the infected holding.

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