



Contents

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Greece: additional information	173
Classical swine fever in Spain: follow-up report No. 4	175
Infectious salmon anaemia in the United States of America: follow-up report No. 2	175
Foot and mouth disease in Kuwait: follow-up report No. 3	176
Foot and mouth disease in Turkey: in Thrace region (follow-up report No. 1)	176

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN GREECE Additional information

Information received on 6 July 2001 from Dr Vasilios Stylos, Head, Animal Health Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Athens:

End of previous report period: 3 July 2001 (see *Disease Information*, 14 [27], 169, dated 6 July 2001).

End of this report period: 6 July 2001.

Follow-up of investigations into the application of the feeding ban

Since 3 July 2001, the following relevant information has become available:

- 1) On the basis of official inspection records and returns, it has been confirmed that the Veterinary Services of Kilikis— where the affected farm is located— have conducted random but continuous on-the-spot checks in feed mills and farms in the Prefecture since 1995 and up until 2001.

All checks in feed mills produced negative results and all checks in farms failed to reveal any indication of the use of meat-and-bone meal (MBM) in animal feed.

Admittedly, the particular farm which was affected by bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had not been inspected. However, the outcome of inspections is indicative of commercial trends and feeding practices employed in the region since 1995.

This overall assessment supports the explicit declaration of the owner of the BSE-affected herd that he has never knowingly used MBM in his farm.

In this connection it is also noted that there were no other species of animals (pigs, poultry) reared in the affected farm.

- 2) On the basis of official inspection records, it has been confirmed that the feed mill, situated outside the Prefecture of Kilikis, which supplied the affected farm with compound feedstuffs in 1996-1997, had been inspected by the local Veterinary Service in April 1999 and samples taken for the detection of MBM. The results were negative.

In addition, a retrospective documentary check carried out on 3 and 4 July 2001 into the records and accounting books of the same manufacturer produced a long list of invoices for purchase of raw materials dating back to 1996, none of which indicated the presence of MBM.

These findings are consistent with the declaration of the manufacturer that he has never used MBM in his mixtures.

It is also significant that the mill in question produces feed destined exclusively for ruminants.

- 3) Finally, new samples of feed have been collected both from the affected farm and the feed mill for the detection of MBM. Results are pending.

Follow-up tests on the cohort of the affected animal

Testing the hypothesis that the affected bovine was born and reared in Greece, all 39 samples collected from her cohort (bovines born and/or reared with the affected animal within 12 months prior to or after its birth) were tested for BSE and found to be negative.

This is hardly proof of absence of indigenous infection, but should be borne in mind for possible future reference.

In total, 94 samples were collected from "contact" animals over 24 months of age, as follows:

- 23 samples from bovines originating directly from the Netherlands;
- 4 samples from bovines originating directly from Denmark;
- 26 samples from bovines born in Greece in 1995;
- 13 samples from bovines born in Greece in 1996;
- 0 samples from bovines born in Greece in 1997 (mentioned for the sake of clarity);
- 28 samples from bovines born in Greece before 1995 or after 1997.

All 94 samples were negative for BSE.

Extraordinary meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on TSEs

The Greek Scientific Advisory Committee on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) held a special meeting on 5 July 2001.

Having considered all the relevant information, the Committee was unable to offer any advice on the origin of the affected animal, until such time as the fate of the missing Dutch cow matching the description of the affected animal has been clarified, and made the following recommendations:

- a) The Greek Authorities should apply formally to their Dutch counterparts requesting assistance with background and current information on the epidemiological profile— as regards BSE— of the cohorts of the missing cow.
- b) In the meantime, the Greek Authorities should intensify their efforts and employ suitable means and procedures with a view to tracing the missing Dutch cow within Greek territory.
- c) Regardless of the origin of the disease, the Greek Authorities should continue to implement all current surveillance, control and safeguard measures which guarantee the protection of public health without the need for additional measures.

On 6 July 2001, the Greek Veterinary Authorities applied formally to the Dutch Authorities requesting assistance and providing preliminary information on the missing cow.

Reports and documents referring to the BSE case in Greece are available, in Greek and in English, on the web site of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology, Ministry of Agriculture, at: <http://www.minagric.gr/greek/2.3.1.GR1.html>

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN SPAIN
Follow-up report No. 4

Translation of information received on 9 and 12 July 2001 from Dr Ignacio Sánchez Esteban, Deputy Director General of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid:

End of previous report period: 29 June 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [27], 168, dated 6 July 2001).

End of this report period: 12 July 2001.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Penellés district, Lérida province, Catalonia Autonomous Community	2
Castellserá district, Lérida province, Catalonia Autonomous Community	1
Arbeca district, Lérida province, Catalonia Autonomous Community	2
Sant Guim de Freixenet district, Lérida province, Catalonia Autonomous Community	1
Talayuelas district, Cuenca province, Castilla-La Mancha Autonomous Community	1

Total number of outbreaks reported to date: 17.

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

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
sui	3,907	467	33	3,873	0

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INFECTIOUS SALMON ANAEMIA IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Follow-up report No. 2

Information received on 9 July 2001 from Dr Alfonso Torres, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

End of previous report period: 3 May 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [19], 109, dated 11 May 2001).

End of this report period: 9 July 2001.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Treats Island Comstock, Cobscook Bay, State of Maine	1
Treats Island TW, Cobscook Bay, State of Maine	1
Gove Point, Cobscook Bay, State of Maine	1
Cooper Island Ledge, Cobscook Bay, State of Maine	1
Deep Cove, Cobscook Bay, State of Maine	1

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>
salmon	431,000#	7# cages	283,000#

#: incomplete total.

Epidemiology:

- A. *Source of agent / origin of infection:* unknown.
- B. *Mode of spread:* unknown.

Control measures during reporting period: biosecurity measures have been implemented at all sites, and strict disinfection protocols are in place. Isolation of affected cages, daily removal of dead fish, and burial in a landfill, are being done.

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**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN KUWAIT
Follow-up report No. 3**

Information received on 10 July 2001 from Dr Sultan Al-Khalaf, Deputy Director General, The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF), Safat:

End of previous report period: 15 May 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [21], 126, dated 25 May 2001).

End of this report period: 10 July 2001.

Surveillance for foot and mouth disease has been ongoing. Nonetheless, there has not been an outbreak of this disease in Kuwait since the one reported on 15 May 2001.

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**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN TURKEY
In Thrace region (follow-up report No. 1)**

Information received on 10 July 2001 from Dr Hüseyin Sungur, General Director of Protection and Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ankara:

End of previous report period: 29 June 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [27], 165, dated 6 July 2001).

End of this report period: 10 July 2001.

The number of cases of foot and mouth disease reported in the outbreak is now 50 goats.

The ring vaccination area has been extended to 15 km.

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