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MAEDI-VISNA (DETECTION OF SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES) IN ARGENTINA Follow-up report No. 1

Translation of information received on 16 November 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: 21 June 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [26], 155, dated 29 June 2001).

End of this report period: 6 November 2001.

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** SENASA Directorate for Laboratories and Technical Control (DILACOT).
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** serological testing using agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGID) and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

As an epidemiological surveillance (active surveillance) measure, it was decided to take samples from Friesian dairy ewes in breeding and production farms that had received animals from the farm in El Bolsón (Province of Río Negro) where the first signs of maedi-visna in Argentina were detected.

According to preliminary results, three of the six farms sampled had sheep and goats that tested serologically positive for maedi-visna. Of these three, two are located in the Province of Chubut and one in the Province of Santa Cruz, and all three are Friesian sheep dairy or breeding farms.

To date, 193 sera have been tested using AGID and ELISA techniques, of which 22 were ELISA-positive, 9 (from the same batch) AGID-positive, 171 ELISA-negative, and 184 AGID-negative. In none of the farms concerned were clinical signs of maedi-visna reported.

Sampling criteria were chosen with the sole aim of determining whether maedi-visna (and/or caprine arthritis and encephalitis) had spread to other regions of the country. On the basis of the results obtained so far, we conclude that the disease is confined to dairy farms and their nucleus breeding farms.

We are therefore promoting control programmes that include the voluntary implementation of prevention and eradication measures, and the certification of disease-free farms and farms in which the disease is under control.

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INFECTIOUS HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS IN AUSTRIA

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: 1999).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 20 November 2001 from Dr Peter Weber, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Social Security and Generations, Vienna:

Report date: 14 November 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 5 October 2001.

Estimated date of first infection: 1 February 2001.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
St. Veit an der Glan, Carinthia (Kärnten)	1 fish farm

Description of affected population: one pond (1,500 m²) for breeding fish and one pond (100 m²) for fattened fish. Young fish are bought annually, and in the meantime purchase of fattened fish. No purchase of fish from this farm.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
pis	2,350	35	35	2,150	165

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: University of Veterinary Medicine, Institute for Hydrobiology, Ichthyology and Bee Science.

B. Diagnostic tests used: direct immunofluorescence test; cell culture.

Epidemiology:

A. Source of agent / origin of infection: unknown; investigations are under way.

B. Mode of spread: under investigation.

Control measures: all fish are either culled or slaughtered and ponds are emptied, cleansed and disinfected (measures under the control of the Official Veterinarian).

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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN SLOVENIA Confirmation

Information received on 21 November 2001 from Dr Zoran Kovac, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ljubljana:

End of previous report period: 13 November 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [46], 270, dated 16 November 2001).

End of this report period: 21 November 2001.

Location of the outbreak: Nova Stifca, Gornji Grad municipality.

Description of affected population in the outbreak: the affected cow comes from a small, extensive dairy farm in the mountains.

Total number of animals in the outbreak*:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
bov	10	1	0	1	0

* There are also 2 pigs and 4 chickens on the farm.

Diagnosis:

- On 12 November 2001, the Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (VARŠ) was notified by the National Veterinary Institute (NVI) of positive results to the Western blot (Prionics Check) test for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a five-year-old cow. Immediately after having been notified by the NVI, the Veterinary Authorities isolated the affected farm and banned the movement of animals to and from the farm.
- On 16 November, the NVI confirmed the suspicion of BSE with further tests (histopathological and immunohistochemical examinations).
- The sample was also sent to the Institute of Animal Neurology, University of Bern, Switzerland (OIE Reference Laboratory), where the diagnosis was confirmed on 20 November.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** under investigation.
- B. Other epidemiological details:** the farmer concerned stated that cattle on the farm graze during the summer and are fed with grass silage and hay during the winter. The affected cow had remained on the farm throughout its life, as had its offspring.

Control measures during reporting period:

- ban on animal movement to and from the farm;
- epidemiological inquiry (determination of cohorts);
- offspring cull;
- routine monitoring at slaughterhouses of all animals over 24 months.

BSE surveillance in Slovenia

1. BSE has been a compulsorily notifiable disease since 1995.
2. In order to avoid the occurrence of BSE, Slovenia introduced a ban on the use of meat-and-bone meal (MBM) and compound feedingstuffs containing mammalian tissue in the nutrition of ruminants in 1996.
3. The importation of consignments of bovine animals, bovine meat and meat products has been banned from:
 - the United Kingdom (an administrative ban came into force in 1996, but, since 1991, the issuing of import licences for the above-mentioned consignments has been banned);
 - France, Ireland, Portugal and Switzerland (since 1996);
 - Belgium and the Netherlands (since 1998);
 - Denmark, Germany and Spain (since 2000);
 - the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Japan and Slovakia (2001).
4. In December 2000, Slovenia issued an Order on preventive measures relating to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), specifying animal tissues involving specific risks, the relevant procedures and a ban on imports of MBM and certain other products obtained by the processing of animal waste and animal carcasses. A preventive measure was established requiring the breeder or the owner of animals to certify, by signing the animal health certificate, that since the day the above-mentioned Order came into force, the animals had not been fed with MBM.
5. Another Order was issued in December 2000, establishing a new system of surveillance for BSE and banning the use of processed animal protein in the nutrition of all species of animals intended for the production of food, as well as the the marketing, trade, and import and export of such protein.

6. BSE surveillance:

- Routine testing for BSE for all cattle presenting nervous signs has been compulsory since 1992.
- Since 1996, routine surveillance of animals older than 36 months intended for slaughter have been enforced. To this effect, random samples are taken in slaughterhouses.
- Since 1 February 2001, all bovine animals older than 30 months slaughtered for human consumption have to be tested for BSE using the Prionics Check test.

Number of animals tested for BSE between 1992 and 2000

Year	Routine slaughter	Clinical signs	Routine necropsy	Total tested	Positive
1992	0	9		9	0
1993	0	30		30	0
1994	0	13		13	0
1995	0	21		21	0
1996	153	26	25	204	0
1997	111	21	48	180	0
1998	106	23	14	143	0
1999	102	14	6	122	0
2000	0	29	8	37	0

Number of animals tested for BSE from 1 January 2001 to 31 October 2001

Reason for testing	2001 (Jan.-Oct.)
sick animals	1,856
euthanised	301
clinical signs	1
dead animals	1,062
routine slaughter	20,653
sanitary slaughter	4
emergency slaughter	895
unknown	121
Total	24,893

7. Import conditions:

- a. Imported consignments of live animals must fulfill certain conditions:
 - in the place of origin and in the surrounding area, no cases of BSE have been discovered in the previous six years;
 - in the exporting country, the feeding of ruminants with MBM and feedingstuffs which contain mammalian protein is prohibited;
 - the animals are less than 30 months old.
- b. For the importation of bovine meat and products, the official veterinarian in the exporting country must certify that:
 - in the place of origin and in the surrounding area, no cases of BSE have been discovered in the last six years or at the time of slaughter;
 - in the exporting country, the feeding of ruminants with MBM and feedingstuffs which contain mammalian protein is prohibited;
 - the animals are less than 30 months old.

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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN JAPAN
Second case

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 22 November 2001 from Dr Shigeo Miyajima, Director of Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tokyo:

Report date: 22 November 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 21 November 2001.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Soya Gun, Hokkaido Prefecture	1

Description of affected population: a Holstein cow aged five years and seven months that had been kept on a dairy farm was slaughtered at the abattoir on 19 November 2001.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	79	1	0	0	2

Diagnosis:

- The brain sample from the cow tested positive to the ELISA⁽¹⁾-based BSE screening test required by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for all cattle slaughtered at abattoirs since 18 October.
- The brain sample was sent to the Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine for confirmation and was subjected to Western blot analysis with a positive result on 21 November 2001.

A. Laboratories where diagnosis was made:

- Ubushi Substation, Teshio Branch, Rumoi Public Health Center (Teshio Gun, Hokkaido Prefecture);
- Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (Hokkaido Prefecture).

B. Diagnostic tests used: ELISA⁽¹⁾ test and Western blot analysis.

Source of agent / origin of infection: under investigation.

Control measures:

- The dairy farm where the BSE case was found has been placed under movement control by Soya Livestock Hygiene Service Center.
- Identification of all animals that were kept with the infected cow.
- Epidemiological investigation of the feed used on the farm, as a possible source of infection.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

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