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BLUETONGUE IN JAPAN

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 30 December 2001 from Dr Shigeo Miyajima, Director of Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tokyo:

Report date: 29 December 2001.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 12 November 2001.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Shioya Gun, Tochigi Prefecture	1

Description of affected population: sheep (suffolk).

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
ovi	45	9	5	0	0

Diagnosis: nine sheep aged from six to eight months that were kept on the National Farm in Tochigi Prefecture presented dysphagia during the months of October and November 2001 and five of them died. Blood samples taken from the sheep were sent to the National Institute of Animal Health and were subjected to serological and virological testing. The samples gave positive results by RT-PCR⁽¹⁾ test and one sample gave a positive result by virus isolation.

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:

- Prefectural Central Livestock Hygiene Service Center, Utsunomiya City, Tochigi Prefecture;
- National Institute of Animal Health, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture).

B. Diagnostic tests used: RT-PCR⁽¹⁾ and virus isolation.

Source of agent / origin of infection: epidemiological investigations are under way.

Control measures:

- epidemiological surveillance on neighbouring farms in Tochigi Prefecture by Livestock Hygiene Service Center;
- prevention measures against haematophagous insects.

(1) RT-PCR: reverse transcriptase – polymerase chain reaction.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BRAZIL
In the State of Rio Grande do Sul (follow-up report No. 4)

Translation of information received on 31 December 2001 from Dr Denise Euclides Mariano da Costa, Director, Department of Animal Protection (DDA), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Brasilia:

End of previous report period: 1 November 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [44], 256, dated 2 November 2001).

End of this report period: 21 December 2001.

Progress report on the eradication of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, with respect to outbreaks diagnosed in 2001:

- According to follow-up report No. 3, 30 outbreaks were reported, the last one occurring on 18 July 2001.
- As stated in follow-up report No. 3, all farms on which FMD was detected were subjected to stamping-out, and left empty for a period of 30 days.
- Beginning on 17 November, sentinel animals were introduced into all 30 outbreak areas. A total of 492 animals were used, all young unvaccinated cattle that had never been exposed to FMD. The animals were born in controlled farms used to provide sensitive animals for FMD vaccine evaluation tests. Before introduction into the outbreak areas, the sentinel animals were tested with EITB⁽¹⁾ and liquid-phase competitive ELISA⁽²⁾. The animals remained on the farms for 30 days and were inspected on a daily basis and serologically tested on days 15 and 30.
- In the districts of Alegrete (5 outbreaks), Dom Pedrito (2 outbreaks) and Livramento (1 outbreak), work with sentinel animals has concluded, and the above areas are being gradually repopulated, under the supervision of the official veterinary authorities.
- In the districts of Jarí (1 outbreak), Quaraí (2 outbreaks) and Rio Grande (18 outbreaks), the 15th-day serological tests have been performed, and all animals were FMD-negative. In the district of Rio Grande, sentinel animals in 9 of the 18 farms presented clinical signs compatible with vesicular disease, but all tested negative for FMD and vesicular stomatitis. As a precautionary measure, the animals in all 9 farms were destroyed, and new sentinel animals must be introduced. All farms within a 3-km radius of the 9 farms have been inspected, but no signs of vesicular disease were found.
- The serological survey in the areas surrounding the outbreaks is in its final phase, and should be concluded in January 2002. Thus far, 11,952 blood serum samples from sheep and goats and 44,369 from cattle have been tested. All animals were individually identified, so that reactors could be slaughtered in abattoirs not authorised for international trade. Products obtained from such animals will be marketed only in the State of Rio Grande do Sul.
- Movement of FMD-susceptible animals from farms within a 25-km radius of the outbreaks is still restricted.

(1) EITB: enzyme-linked immunoelectrotransfer blot.

(2) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

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