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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BOTSWANA Follow-up report No. 1

Information received on 1 March 2002 from Dr Motshudi V. Raborokgwe, Director of Animal Health and Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Gaborone:

End of previous report period: 14 February 2002 (see *Disease Information*, 15 [7], 17, dated 15 February 2002).

End of this report period: 27 February 2002.

New outbreak:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Matsiloje extension area*, Francistown District	1 crush (Rakop 1)

* an extension area is a defined area usually comprising 8-10 crushes manned by a veterinary assistant.

Description of affected population in the new outbreak: continuing daily inspections have revealed a case of foot and mouth disease (FMD) at an adjacent crush called Rakop 1 (21° 16' 369" S - 27° 51' 826" E), with approximately 1,100 cattle.

Total number of animals in the new outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	1,100	1	0	0*	0

* All cattle in this crush will be destroyed as soon as possible. All cattle in the outbreak of Lephaneeng (see emergency report) were destroyed.

Epidemiology: the disease is still confined to the infected zone.

Measures taken:

a. Area demarcation

Definition of the infected and surveillance zones remains the same as in the emergency report.

b. Surveillance

Almost all the 30,000 cattle in the immediate surveillance zone (15,000 in Veterinary Disease Control Zone No. 6 and 15,000 in Veterinary Disease Control Zone No. 7) have been clinically inspected and serologically sampled for FMD. No lesions were detected; serology results are awaited. Surveillance has commenced in the remainder of Veterinary Disease Control Zones Nos. 6, 3c and 7; all animals are clinically inspected and a statistically representative sample taken for serology. So far no FMD lesions have been detected.

c. Vaccination

- So far 11,000 cattle in the infected zone have been vaccinated with a locally produced trivalent SAT 1, 2, 3 vaccine, to limit disease spread.
- Vaccinated animals are identified with brand "I". The booster vaccination is scheduled two weeks after the primary vaccinations (i.e. starting from 28 February 2002).
- Vaccination of cattle in the infected zone will continue until all cattle in the infected zone have been destroyed.

d. Stamping out

All the cattle in Lephaneng crush have been destroyed by incineration and burial.

e. Quarantine and movement restriction

Countrywide restrictions have been lifted except for Zones Nos. 6 and 7. In Zones Nos. 5, 8 and 9, only slaughter animals being taken directly to a slaughterhouse can be moved into Zones Nos. 6 and 7, subject to a permit having been delivered after inspection of the animals. Local abattoirs have been opened for slaughter of animals in the catchment area in their immediate vicinity. Movement of animals to these abattoirs is sanctioned through a veterinary permit, which is issued after a thorough inspection of animals.

f. Biosecurity

The measures mentioned in the emergency report are still in force.

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**BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN AUSTRIA
Follow-up report No. 1 (additional information)**

Information received on 6 March 2002 from Dr Peter Weber, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Social Security and Generations, Vienna:

End of previous report period: 14 December 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [50], 289, dated 14 December 2001).

End of this report period: 6 March 2002.

Background

In December 2001, the Veterinary Services of Austria reported the first occurrence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Austria, in a bovine in an establishment in the federal province of Lower Austria (see *Disease Information*, **14** [50], 289, dated 14 December 2001).

At the time when the positive result became available, 60 bovines were kept in the establishment and, since a calf was born in the period before the animals were culled, 61 animals were slaughtered and their carcasses completely destroyed following the ban placed on the establishment.

Samples were taken from all animals older than 24 months and sent to the Federal Institute for Veterinary-Medicinal Examinations at Mödling (national BSE reference laboratory). All 28 samples gave negative results.

Examination of the feed demonstrated that no animal protein had been added. In Austria the feeding of animal protein to ruminants has been prohibited since 1990.

After culling of the cattle the farm was cleaned and disinfected.

The all-Austrian surveillance programme for slaughtered bovines older than 30 months will be continued in 2002. In 2001, 227,319 samples were tested in five examination institutes.

Specified risk material

Specified risk material from all slaughtered bovines is removed and destroyed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 and all the necessary safety measures have therefore been applied to avoid any possible risk to the consumer.

The following has been deemed specified risk material:

- from bovine animals older than 12 months: the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils, the vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail) including spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia;
- from bovine animals of all ages: the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum;
- from ovine and caprine animals older than 12 months: the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord;
- from ovine and caprine animals of all ages: the spleen;
- carcasses of bovine animals older than 30 months that have not been tested for BSE.

BSE surveillance programme

Since 1 January 2001, Austria has applied a comprehensive national surveillance programme. All bovines are being marked in accordance with the European Union regulation on marking and their data entered into an electronic database. Beef labelling allows the meat to be traced back to the animal of origin.

In accordance with the surveillance programme the following categories of cattle are subject to compulsory testing for BSE:

- all regularly slaughtered bovines older than 30 months (since 1 January 2001);
- all emergency slaughtered cattle older than 20 months in accordance with decree GZ 39.605/422-IX/A/8/01, published in the veterinary bulletin (*Amtliche Veterinärnachricht*) No. 9, September 2001 (since 23 October 2001; 2,490 animals in 2001);
- all animals clinically suspected of having BSE, in accordance with the BSE Regulation, Federal Legal Gazette II No. 389/1991 (since 1991);
- voluntary BSE examinations in accordance with decree GZ 39.605/47-IX10/01, published in the veterinary bulletin No. 12, December 2001 (since 24 January 2001; 716 animals in 2001).

Sheep and goats are examined for transmissible encephalopathies pursuant to an elaborate random sampling plan.

The Austrian reference laboratory carries out the examinations in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001.

Considering the experience in other European countries, sporadic cases of BSE may occur in the future which will, however, be detected in the course of the above-mentioned thorough surveillance programme and thus will not be placed on the market.

The rigid surveillance measures in Austria will continue to be applied, thus guaranteeing the highest possible safety standards regarding BSE for beef and other products of Austrian cattle in the future.

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