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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA Follow-up report No. 1 (confirmation)

Information received on 12 May 2002 from Dr Gardner Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA), Canberra:

End of previous report period: 10 May 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [19], 66, dated 10 May 2002).

End of this report period: 14 May 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 8 May 2002.

Estimated date of first infection: 18 March 2002.

Outbreak:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Near the town of Meredith, Victoria (approx. 75 km west of Melbourne)	1

Description of affected population: the outbreak has occurred in a poultry layer enterprise comprising of 9 atmospheric-controlled sheds, each shed containing between 22,000 and 25,000 birds.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
avi	250,000	...	between 500 and 1000	0	0

Diagnosis: in mid to late March 2002 an enterprise near Meredith, western Victoria approximately 75 km west of Melbourne (see map) experienced a significant decrease in egg shell quality in two of nine sheds. Over a period of four weeks, egg production declined and four other sheds experienced a mild increase in mortality, but within normal industry limits.

On 8 May 2002, upon suspicion of possible virulent Newcastle disease (ND) virus, diagnostic samples were sent to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, where a virulent sequence of the isolated virus was confirmed on 9 May 2002.

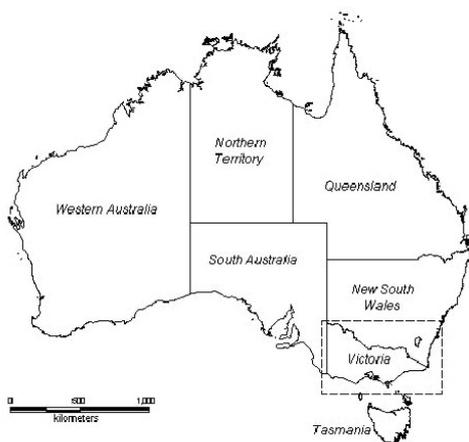
A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong, Victoria.

B. Diagnostic tests used: serology, virus isolation and DNA sequencing; immunohistochemistry and ICPI⁽¹⁾ results pending.

- C. **Causal agent:** virulent ND virus of Australian origin. Amino acid sequence of F cleavage site RRQRRF and a 9 amino acid extension at the HN gene indicate that the virus is identical, or almost identical, to the 1999 Mangrove Mountain isolate of virulent ND virus of Australian origin.

Epidemiology:

- A. **Source of agent / origin of infection:** mode of introduction to farm unknown; further epidemiological investigations are under way to attempt to identify the source of the outbreak.
- B. **Other epidemiological details:** records of routine ND serology of the enterprise demonstrate that there was no recent evidence of infection with any ND virus before late March 2002. At this time, there are only two commercial layer farms known to have had any links with the infected farm. Birds on both of these farms remain healthy with no clinical or serological evidence of ND, with results of further laboratory tests pending.



Control measures:

- The suspect flock was quarantined on 8 May 2002, with subsequent implementation of movement controls and a Restricted Area (RA, or Infected Zone) of approximately 3 km and a Control Area (CA, or Surveillance Zone) of approximately 10 km around the affected property. Both areas are legally defined by the use of Local Government Area boundaries. There are no other commercial poultry farms within the RA, and only five broiler farms within the CA, all of which show no evidence of ND.
- Four very small non-commercial or 'backyard' layer flocks in Victoria that received birds from the index farm were placed under quarantine, with precautionary destruction of all 380 birds in these flocks.
- The response plan developed by Victoria and approved by Australia's Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD) and the National Management Group on 13 May 2002, aims to eradicate virulent ND virus infection associated with this incident. This will be achieved by a stamping-out policy with the maintenance of strict quarantine and movement controls to prevent any spread of the disease, detailed and targeted monitoring and surveillance programmes to determine the presence and distribution of ND viruses, disposal of infected and contaminated products and materials as necessary, and intensive clean-up and decontamination of the infected premises. Destruction of birds is scheduled to take five days, beginning on 14 May 2002, with disposal by deep burial on-site.
- The rest of Victoria and Australia outside of the CA continues to remain free of ND. No additional quarantine or movement restrictions have been imposed by other Australian States or Territories, beyond those imposed by Victorian authorities. The Commonwealth Government and Victorian Government have created web sites to provide current information on this incident (see <http://www.affa.gov.au/> and <http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/> respectively).

(1) ICPI: intracerebral pathogenicity index

**MYCOPLASMA MYCOIDES SSP MYCOIDES BIOTYPE LC IN NEW ZEALAND
Follow-up report No. 1**

Information received on 13 May 2002 from Dr Barry O'Neil, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Wellington:

End of previous report period: 5 November 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [45], 258, dated 9 November 2001).

End of this report period: 13 May 2002.

An outbreak of polyarthritis due to *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* (large colony) (*Mmm*LC) occurred in 2001 in goats and very young calves. In unusual circumstances, the calves were fed milk from infected goats.

As a precaution, all calves exposed to infected milk were slaughtered or held under containment for research purposes, in particular to determine whether horizontal transmission between cattle can occur.

Investigations during the outbreak response revealed that *Mmm*LC had been present in New Zealand dairy goats for some years without causing significant disease outbreaks. *M. agalactiae* has never been isolated in New Zealand.

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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN JAPAN
Fourth case

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 13 May 2002 from Dr Toshikazu Ijichi, Director of Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tokyo:

Report date: 13 May 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 10 May 2002.

Outbreak:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Shiranuka Gun, Hokkaido Prefecture	1

Description of affected population: a Holstein cow aged six years and one month that had been kept on a dairy farm in Hokkaido Prefecture and was slaughtered at the abattoir on 10 May 2002.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	56	1	0	0	1

Diagnosis:

- The brain sample from the cow tested positive to the ELISA⁽¹⁾-based bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) screening test required by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for all cattle slaughtered at abattoirs since 18 October 2001.
- The brain sample was sent to the Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine for confirmation and was subjected to Western blot analysis and immunohistochemical examination, with a positive result on 12 May 2002.

A. Laboratories where diagnosis was made:

- Hokkaido Prefectural Kushiro Public Health Center, Kushiro City, Hokkaido Prefecture;
- Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Obihiro City, Hokkaido Prefecture.

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

Source of agent / origin of infection: under investigation.

Control measures:

- The dairy farm in Hokkaido Prefecture where the BSE case was found has been placed under movement control by the Kushiroe Livestock Hygiene Service Centre.
- 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.

Note from the OIE Central Bureau: This is the fourth BSE case reported in Japan. As from now, any further cases of BSE in Japan will no longer be notified in *Disease Information* but will immediately be incorporated into the table on the number of reported cases of BSE worldwide (excluding the United Kingdom), which can be consulted on the OIE Web site at the following address: http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_esbmonde.htm.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

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

Information received on 14, 15 and 16 May 2002 from Dr Nikola T. Belev, Delegate of Bulgaria to the OIE:

End of previous report period: 22 April 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [17], 52, dated 26 April 2002).

End of this report period: 14 May 2002.

New outbreaks:

Location		Number of outbreaks
Region	Settlement	
Smolian (south of the country)	Mihalkovo	2
	Devin	1
Rousse (north of the country)	Biala	1
Total		3

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: small, private, fattening pig farms.

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	16	8	2	14	-

Diagnosis: see previous reports.

Mode of spread: contact.

Control measures during reporting period: see previous reports.

Note from the OIE Central Bureau: These are the 23rd, 24th and 25th outbreaks of classical swine fever reported in Bulgaria since the emergency report dated 27 March 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [13], 38, dated 29 March 2002). As from now, any further cases reported to the OIE will no longer be notified in the weekly *Disease Information* publication but will be incorporated in the OIE database, and the information available on the OIE Web site via the "Handistatus" application, at the following address: http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_bdd.htm

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ACARIOSIS OF BEES IN NORWAY

(Disease never reported before).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 16 May 2002 from Dr Eivind Liven, Chief Veterinary Officer, Royal Ministry of Agriculture, Oslo:

Report date: 14 May 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 29 April 2002.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Sogn og Fjordane county, Hyllestad municipality (in the western part of the country)	2

Description of infested population: apiaries.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
api	56	2	0	0	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Norwegian College of Veterinary Medicine, Oslo.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** dissection.
- C. Causal agent:** *Acarapis woodi*.

Epidemiology:

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

Control measures:

- affected farms placed under quarantine. Movement control within a 3-km- radius zone around the first farm. The second farm was within this zone;
- contacts have been traced and are being tested.

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