



Contents

Classical swine fever in France: follow-up report No. 2	73
Foot and mouth disease in Zambia: suspicion (follow-up report No. 1)	74
Foot and mouth disease in Botswana: follow-up report No. 4	75
Foot and mouth disease in Swaziland: in the traditionally free zone (follow-up report No. 4)	76
Classical swine fever in Slovenia: detection of specific antibodies in wild boar (follow-up report No. 1)	76
Newcastle disease in Australia: follow-up report No. 2	77

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN FRANCE Follow-up report No. 2

Information received on 24 May 2002 from Dr Isabelle Chmitelin, Deputy Director General, General Directorate for Food (DGAL), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Paris:

End of previous report period: 3 May 2002 (see *Disease Information*, 15 [19], 64, dated 10 May 2002).

End of this report period: 21 May 2002.

The situation is stable: no new outbreaks, and no suspect clinical indications.

The health control measures, including the protection and surveillance zones, will be maintained for a minimum period of 30 days from the date of the first disinfection procedure at the site of the outbreak, that is until 10 June 2002 at the earliest.

The ten livestock farms linked epidemiologically with the site of the outbreak at Chémery-les-Deux have been placed under surveillance and an initial series of serology tests has been carried out in order to detect CSF if present. All results were negative. A second series of serology tests is currently being conducted on these farms. A lightening of the surveillance measures applicable to the holdings may be contemplated if the results warrant it.

1. Identification of the virus

The initial results of the molecular sequencing of the virus carried out by AFSSA (the French Agency for Food Safety) show the following:

- The wild boar (10 April 2002, department of Moselle) and the domestic swine (24 April 2002, department of Moselle) isolates are identical. The same strain is involved.
- Likewise, all data hitherto tends to indicate that it is also the same strain as that causing disease in neighbouring countries, i.e. the Rostock strain (subgroup 2.3 in phylogenetic terms).

2. Epidemiological enquiry

A retrospective enquiry has been conducted for the period of risk (March and April 2002), on the basis of a count of pig carcasses collected by the company holding the public rendering contract for the area, with the aim of detecting any abnormal rise in pig mortality. No worrying indications have been observed. This surveillance is currently ongoing.

A number of hypotheses have been considered for the origin of the infection in the livestock at the Chémery-les-Deux pig unit. The investigations carried out have focused on the following in particular:

- infection from livestock farms in epidemiological contact with the site of the outbreak;
- contagion by direct contact with wild swine;
- imports of cattle from Belgium and Luxembourg to the Chémery-les-Deux holding;
- use of swill for feeding;
- carriage by human vectors (e.g. visit by a technical worker);
- an indirect vector (vehicle used by the company bringing the piglets from farms upstream in the chain to the outbreak site and from there to the livestock farm infected in Germany).

The human carriage and indirect vector hypotheses appear at the present time to be the most probable, although the swill hypothesis cannot be ruled out completely. The other hypotheses have been ruled out.

3. The regionalisation measure determined by the European Commission

Taking formal note of the above health situation and the extensive resources put in place by France in order to eradicate classical swine fever from its national territory, the meeting of the SCFCAH (Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health) held on 8 May 2002 gave a favourable opinion, based on the unanimous view of the 15 representatives of the veterinary services of the Member States, on a measure to regionalise French national territory, limiting the zone subject to restrictions for trade to the territorial departments of Moselle and Meurthe-et-Moselle. All shipments out of this zone of live swine, or swine semen, ova or embryos is prohibited, whether to other Member States or elsewhere on French territory.

This measure also defines a contiguous controlled zone in Germany and Luxembourg. France has indicated that no pig industry product from either of these two zones would be allowed into its territory, including cases where the destination is located in the controlled zone in France.

These provisions will be embodied in the very near future in an European Commission decision notified to Member States and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

*
* *

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN ZAMBIA Suspicion (follow-up report no. 1)

Information received on 21 May 2002 from Dr M.P.C. Mangani, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Specialist Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Lusaka:

End of previous report period: 7 May 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [19], 63, dated 10 May 2002).

End of this report period: 21 May 2002.

A total of 69 new cases have been reported in the same area. There have been no deaths so far. The laboratory results are not yet available.

*
* *

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BOTSWANA
Follow-up report No. 4

Information received on 21 May 2002 from Dr Motshudi V. Raborokgwe, Director of Animal Health and Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Gaborone:

End of previous report period: 5 April 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [15], 42, dated 12 April 2002).

End of this report period: 21 May 2002.

Since the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) at Rakop 1 on 23 February 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [10], 27, dated 8 March 2002), there have been no new outbreaks. Botswana is now in a position to declare the country provisionally free from FMD as of 20 May 2002. Clinical and serological surveillance will continue in the surveillance zone for the next three months.

Control measures during reporting period:

a. Area demarcation

Definitions of the infected and surveillance zones remain the same.

b. Surveillance

In cattle: Clinical surveillance in the immediate surveillance zone has been carried out five times at an interval of two weeks and no FMD lesions were detected.

In goats and sheep: Clinical inspection in the infected zone has been done. A total of 6,594 goats and 761 sheep (representing 100% coverage) have been inspected clinically and blood sampled for FMD. No FMD lesions were detected. Serological results are awaited.

In pigs: Although there were no cases of FMD in pigs, all 131 pigs (in 3 farms) in the infected zone were destroyed as a precautionary measure, given their ability to contract and transmit the disease easily.

In wildlife: Surveillance is nearly complete. A total of 56 impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) and 5 kudu (*Tragelaphus* sp.) were captured and clinically inspected. No FMD lesions were found. These numbers represent a significant sample size, given the rarity of wildlife in this area with its dense human population. Serum and probang samples were taken and have been sent to the laboratory for testing.

c. Vaccination

All cattle have been destroyed and no more vaccination will therefore be required.

d. Stamping out

Mass destruction is complete. To date, 12,197 cattle have been destroyed. Mopping up operations to eliminate any remaining cattle have also finished.

A total of 131 pigs belonging to three farms in the infected zone were destroyed as a precautionary measure. The farms are all in the Matshelagabedi crush area.

e. Quarantine and movement restrictions

The measures mentioned in the previous reports are still in force.

f. Biosecurity

The measures mentioned in the previous reports are still in force.

*
* *

**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SWAZILAND
In the traditionally free zone (follow-up report No. 4)**

Information received on 17 May 2002 from Dr Robert S. Thwala, Director, Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Mbabane:

End of previous report period: 11 February 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [10], 43, dated 9 March 2001).

End of this report period: 31 March 2002.

Hhohho region (25° 52' S - 31° 42' E)

Active weekly inspections were performed in the quarantine and surveillance zones with particular vigilance at dip tanks, and the quarantine measures remained in force. At least 30,201 bovines were inspected, representing 97% of all the animals within the quarantine area. No cases were found.

Lubombo region (26° 00' 00" S - 31° 53' 45" E)

Active surveillance remained in place at all dip tanks and checkpoints. At least 8,582 bovines were inspected, representing 93% of all the animals within the quarantine area. No new cases were found.

*
* *

**CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN SLOVENIA
Detection of specific antibodies in wild boar (follow-up report No. 1)**

Information received on 22 May 2002 from Dr Zoran Kovac, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ljubljana:

End of previous report period: 11 March 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [11], 34, dated 15 March 2002).

End of this report period: 21 May 2002.

After the finding of serologically positive reactors amongst the wild boar population in two hunting areas, it was decided that all shot animals would have to be tested for the presence of antibodies and virus.

The following diagnostic tests have been used:

- serology (ELISA⁽¹⁾),
- virus isolation,
- antigen ELISA.

Between 25 March and 13 May 2002, the National Veterinary Institute (NVI) examined 64 samples (spleen and coagulum) of wild boar. Fourteen of these samples tested positive for specific antibodies to classical swine fever virus. However, all samples (including the 14 samples positive for specific antibodies) were negative to the antigen ELISA test.

Eight pooled samples of spleen suspension were also tested using the PCR⁽²⁾ method. Pooled samples were made by combining spleen suspensions from five animals. All the samples tested using PCR were negative.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

(2) PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA
Follow-up report No. 2

Information received on 24 May 2002 from Dr Gardner Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA), Canberra:

End of previous report period: 14 May 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [20], 67, dated 17 May 2002).

End of this report period: 24 May 2002.

Total number of animals in the outbreak (updated data):

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
avi	approx. 250,000	...*	between 500 and 1,000 over 4-6 weeks	182,000**	0

* up to 40% drop in egg production over 4-6 weeks.

** provisional data.

Update on diagnosis: intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI) = 1.61.

Update on control measures and surveillance:

Stamping out on the one infected farm is continuing. At close of business on 23 May 2002, around 182,000 of an estimated 250,000 birds had been destroyed, with the balance due to be completed by 25 May. Cleaning and disinfection operations will then commence.

All surveillance has given negative results. This includes the small number of poultry flocks within the 10-km (approx.) Control Area (Surveillance Zone⁽¹⁾), the few in-contact farms, and other poultry flocks in Victoria and the rest of Australia.

Victorian authorities have commenced issuing permits for voluntary vaccination of Victorian poultry flocks as part of a risk-minimisation strategy for Newcastle disease.

The rest of Victoria and Australia outside of the Control Area continues to remain free of Newcastle disease. No additional quarantine or movement restrictions have been imposed by other Australian States and Territories, beyond those imposed by the Victorian authorities.

(1) See map in *Disease Information*, **15** (20), 68, dated 17 May 2002.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever by the Central Bureau of the Office International des Epizooties concerning the legal status of any country or territory mentioned, or its authorities, or concerning the delineation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Unless otherwise stated, material published is derived from declarations made to the Central Bureau by the Veterinary Administrations of the countries and territories mentioned.