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BLUETONGUE IN SINGAPORE Serological findings in a zoo

(Disease never reported).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 20 December 2002 from Dr Chua Sin Bin, Director, Veterinary Public Health and Food Supply Division, Agri-food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore:

Report date: 20 December 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory (sero-conversion).

Date of serological findings: 13 December 2002.

Estimated date of first infection: 1 November 2002.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Mandai	1 (zoological garden)

Description of affected population: wild ruminants kept in the local zoological garden.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
fau	500	0*	0	0	0

* No animals have displayed clinical signs of bluetongue.

Diagnosis: four serum samples submitted for testing were serologically positive.

- Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Pirbright Laboratory, United Kingdom (OIE Reference Laboratory for bluetongue).
- Diagnostic tests used:** competitive ELISA⁽¹⁾ tests for bluetongue.
- Causal agent:** the serotype of the virus is currently unknown.

Epidemiology:

- Source of agent / origin of infection:** investigations are going on.
- Other epidemiological details:** the animals that have demonstrated sero-conversion are located in the zoological garden, the whole of which is considered a permanent quarantine area for wild animals in Singapore.

Control measures:

- Serological surveillance is being carried out on ruminants in the zoological garden, as well as on cows and goats reared for milk production in local farms.
- Trapping of insects will be carried out to try to identify potential insect vectors of bluetongue.
- Restrictions on movements of ruminants.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

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**AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN GHANA
Follow-up report No. 2**

Information received on 20 December 2002 from Dr Mensah Agyen-Frempong, Director, Veterinary Services Department, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Accra:

End of previous report period: 27 October 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [44], 221, dated 1 November 2002).

End of this report period: 20 December 2002.

Populations/communities affected with African swine fever:

It is the northern part of the Zabzugu-Tatale district (see map) which has been most severely affected by African swine fever (ASF). So far, an estimated 7,061 pigs have been reported dead as a result of the disease while an estimated 1,743 pigs have been slaughtered and consumed by their owners.

Diagnosis:

Following the laboratory confirmation of the disease by the Accra Veterinary Laboratory, samples were sent to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute in South Africa for virus isolation. ASF virus was isolated on macrophage cell cultures, and ASF DNA was detected by PCR⁽¹⁾. The sequence result and the full report are awaited.

Epidemiology:

The infection in the Zabzugu-Tatale district was in all probability introduced from Togo where an outbreak is said to have occurred in Bassare, a town about 30 or so kilometres from the Ghana-Togo border. The outbreak in the Zabzugu-Tatale district started in villages along our border and located between 8° 50' N – 0° 15' E and 9° 30' N – 0° 32' E.

The Director of Veterinary Services (DVS) in Ghana has been in touch with the DVS in Togo and he personally visited Togo to hold discussions with officials from the Togolese Veterinary Services to find ways of dealing with the disease in both countries. The discussions have been very useful and encouraging.

Control measures:

As stated in Follow-up Report No. 1, a team consisting of an epidemiologist and clinicians was despatched to the ASF outbreak area to conduct investigations and among other things determine the extent of the outbreak. The DVS of Ghana visited the area after the visit of the team to appraise the situation himself.

Then, Ghana's PACE⁽²⁾ Communication Officer was despatched to the area with 5,000 posters on ASF as well as copies of the FAO⁽³⁾ *Manual on African Swine Fever for Pig Producers*. He was in the area for two weeks on an awareness creation exercise. Radio stations in the area are being used to assist in the creation of awareness in the affected district (Zabzugu-Tatale) and the adjoining districts, which have so far not been affected. Churches, schools and the members of District Assemblies (the local

administrative body) are all being used to create awareness in the affected district and adjoining districts.

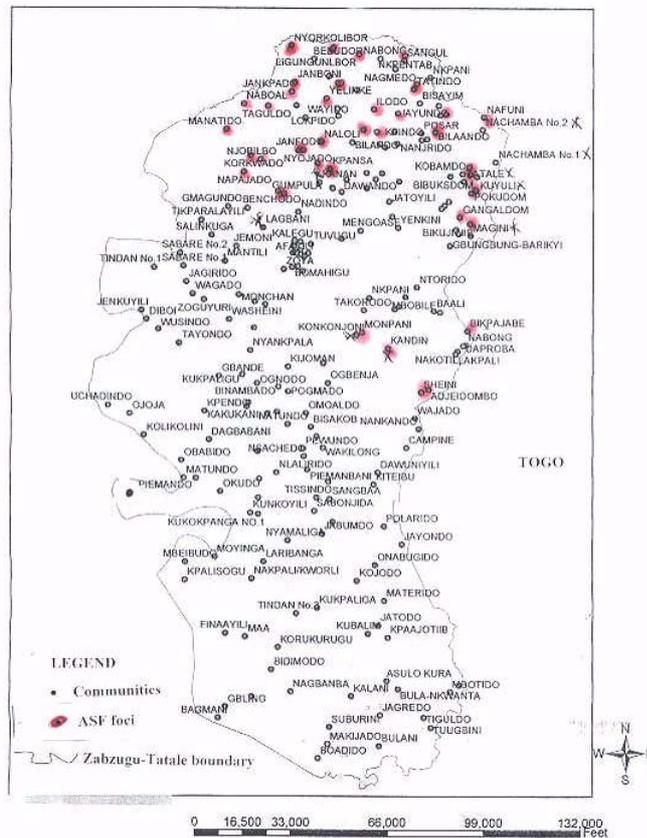
Having increased awareness among the pig producers and explained the actions going to be taken to control/eradicate the disease, the veterinary officials are now preparing to go to the district to carry out the destruction of pigs. It is estimated that about 6,000 pigs will be destroyed in the exercise. The affected district has very difficult and rugged terrain with a lot of the communities not easily accessible by vehicle. Nevertheless, every effort will be made to reach all the communities by motorcycle or bicycle and if necessary on foot for the destruction and disinfection exercise. Farmers will be paid compensation for their pigs that will be destroyed. Funds from the emergency funds have been secured for the payment of compensation.

The following measures introduced at the onset of the outbreak are still in force:

- all surviving pigs have been confined;
- a complete ban on movement of pigs, pork and pig products;
- slaughter and sale of pigs banned.

Extent of disease spread (communities so far affected) in the Zabzugu-Tatale district

MAP OF ZABZUGU-TATALE DISTRICT SHOWING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED WITH AFRICAN SWINE FEVER



- (1) PCR: polymerase chain reaction.
- (2) PACE: Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics.
- (3) FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

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MSX DISEASE (*HAPLOSPORIDIUM NELSONI*) IN CANADA
Follow-up report No. 1

Information received on 20 December 2002 from Dr Brian Evans, Executive Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa:

End of previous report period: 21 October 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [43], 212, dated 25 October 2002).

End of this report period: 18 December 2002.

A preliminary, histology-based survey to determine the distribution of MSX disease in *Crassostrea virginica* oysters throughout Atlantic Canada was completed on 18 November 2002. Oysters in the following areas were examined: Cape Breton (9 sample sites), Gulf Nova Scotia (2 sites), southwest Nova Scotia (1 site), eastern New Brunswick (6 sites), and Prince Edward Island (4 sites). Only the sample sites listed in "New outbreaks" below were found to be positive for *Haplosporidium nelsoni* during the survey.

New outbreaks:

Since the Emergency Report dated 21 October 2002, four additional positive sites have been identified in Cape Breton Island. Evidence of infection was found at two locations in Bras d'Or Lake, as well as at two sites on the north coast of the island. In addition, two of four oyster samples from Prince Edward Island showed signs of MSX.

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratories where diagnosis was made:** see the Emergency Report.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** histology and PCR⁽¹⁾.
- C. Causal agent:** at the newly identified sites, only evidence of subclinical plasmodial – early developmental or non-spore – infections was found.

Epidemiology: losses due to MSX have been associated solely with the heavy infections found in St. Patrick's Channel and Bras d'Or Lake, Cape Breton. At the other sites prevalence of infection is less than 7%. An expanded survey is being conducted.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Requests for transfers of bivalves between water bodies are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Licences are only issued for oyster transfers where there is no evidence of MSX.
A precautionary inclusion of sympatric bivalves in transfer restrictions has now been lifted for sites where there is no evidence of MSX disease.
- Harvesting and marketing from MSX affected areas are permitted under stringent conditions prohibiting relay, washing or wet storage away from the harvest site.

(1) PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN NAMIBIA Serological findings

(*Date of previous reported outbreak:* January 2002).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 24 December 2002 from Dr John J.H. Shaw, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, Windhoek:

Report date: 12 December 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: November 2002.

Description of affected population: commercially reared domestic ostriches.

Location of the outbreaks and total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>Farm</i>	<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases*</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
Keichanachab # 91	avi	...	14	0	0	0
Hardap Plots 8, 11, 12	avi	...	22	0	0	0
Omburo Suid	avi	...	30	0	0	0
Klein Vaalgras	avi	...	20	0	0	0

* Serological evidence only.

Diagnosis: serological evidence of Newcastle disease in ostriches was detected during routine testing as part of epidemiological surveillance of exporting premises. No clinical signs of disease in either breeding or slaughter birds have been detected.

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Institute for Avian Diseases, Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, Germany (OIE Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease).
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** haemagglutination inhibition (low serological titres). Further tests to determine pathogenicity will be done.

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** unknown. Investigations are in progress.
- B. Mode of spread:** not yet determined. There is no contact between the affected farms.

Control measures:

- quarantine;
- screening.

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RIFT VALLEY FEVER IN MAURITANIA

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of information received on 25 December 2002 from Dr Mokhtar Fall, Deputy Director, Department of Animal Production and Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development and Environment, Nouakchott:

Report date: 25 December 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 1 November 2002.

Estimated date of first infection: 25 October 2002.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Aleg (17° 05' N – 13° 91' W), Brakna region	2
Foum Gleita (M'bout) (16° 16' 07" N – 12° 66' 07" W), Gorgol region	1

Total number of animals in the outbreaks*:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
o/c	500	180	0	0	0

* Local breeds of sheep, goats, cattle, camels and donkeys are present. Because of transhumance (extensive rearing system), the number of animals by species cannot be accurately determined.

Diagnosis:

- A. **Laboratories where diagnosis was made:** National Laboratory for Animal Production and Veterinary Research⁽¹⁾, Dakar, and Pasteur Institute, Dakar, Senegal.
- B. **Diagnostic tests used:** virus neutralisation test and ELISA⁽²⁾. The sera were found to be negative to virus isolation.

Epidemiology:

- A. **Mode of spread:** vector-transmitted.
- B. **Other epidemiological details:**
 - The two outbreaks in Aleg are 20 km apart.
 - The outbreak in Foum Gleita was notable for the occurrence of a human case, caused by contact with infected animals. The person in question survived the infection without after-effects.

Control measures: screening.

(1) Laboratoire National de l'Élevage et de Recherches Vétérinaires.

(2) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

SCRAPIE IN ROMANIA

(Disease never reported before).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 24 December 2002 from Dr Viorel Andronie, Director General, National Sanitary Veterinary Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, Bucharest:

Report date: 24 December 2002.

Cases of scrapie were diagnosed in the following districts: Ialomița and Călărași (both in the south-eastern part of the country), and Iași (in the north-eastern part of the country).

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