

## Contents

Foot and mouth disease in Syria: additional information	29
Foot and mouth disease in Botswana: suspected outbreaks (follow-up report No. 2)	30
Classical swine fever in Bulgaria: follow-up report No. 3	32
Bluetongue in Yugoslavia	33
Sheep pox in Kuwait	33
Newcastle disease in Kuwait	34

### FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SYRIA Additional information

SEE *DISEASE INFORMATION*, **15** (51), 267, DATED 20 DECEMBER 2002, AND **16** (1), 1, DATED 3 JANUARY 2003

Information received on 18 and 29 January 2003 from Dr George Khoury, Director of Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Damascus:

**Report date:** 29 January 2003.

We confirm that cases of foot and mouth disease (FMD) occurred in February 2002 and that the last case occurred during the first week of March 2002 in a Governmental dairy farm approximately 1 km from Damascus city (see *Disease Information*, **16** [1], 1, dated 3 January 2003).

Strict quarantine procedures were applied on the farm and all items that had been in contact with the infected animals, including milk, were disposed of.

An emergency vaccination campaign was immediately implemented around the outbreak area. It should be noted that all cattle in Syria are generally vaccinated twice a year against FMD.

Since March 2002, no new cases have occurred in cattle in that area or in any other parts of Syria.

No FMD cases have occurred in sheep since 1999. Sheep are kept in Al Badia (desert) far away from the cities, and do not, therefore, mix with cattle. In addition, they are vaccinated yearly.

**Note:** The November 2002 report\* from the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, United Kingdom (OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD) mentioned the months of February, March, July, October and November 2002 as the dates of sample collection. However, these dates are not the actual dates of sample collection from cattle. They are the dates when the samples were sent by the sub-laboratory in the infected area to the Central Laboratory of the Directorate of Animal Health in Damascus. In Syria, it is standard practice for the sub-laboratories to keep the samples and not to destroy them until they receive the approval of the Central Laboratory. For this reason the sub-laboratories were requested to provide the Directorate of Animal Health with these samples at different dates, which correspond to the dates mentioned in the Pirbright Laboratory report. Thus, the samples sent to Pirbright Laboratory in November 2002 had been collected during the suspected outbreaks in February and March 2002.

\* See *Disease Information*, **15** (51), 267, dated 20 December 2002, and OIE *Bulletin* No. 2003 - 1, p 11.

**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BOTSWANA**  
**Suspected outbreaks (follow-up report No. 2)**

Information received on 25 January 2003 from Dr Micus Chivasanee Chimbombi, Director of Animal Health and Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Gaborone:

**End of previous report period:** 15 January 2003 (see *Disease Information*, **16** [3], 17, dated 17 January 2003).

**End of this report period:** 24 January 2003.

**New suspected outbreak:**

Location	No. of outbreaks
Annah Blackbeard farm (see map)	1

**Description of affected population in the new suspected outbreak:** one case was recorded in a stray steer at Annah Blackbeard Farm, which is also in the infected zone. The animal had lesions consistent with those found in cattle in other crushes suspected of having foot and mouth disease (FMD). The animal was later traced to the same herd in Tsiteng where two cases have been recorded. Resident animals in Annah Blackbeard Farm did not have lesions or other clinical signs suggestive of FMD.

**Total number of animals in the suspected outbreaks (updated data):**

<i>Outbreaks</i>	<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
Matopi crush	bov	approx. 900	23	0	842	0
Tsiteng crush	bov	approx. 1,000	2	0	928	0
Strauss farm	fau*	...	1	0	1	0
Annah Blackbeard farm	bov	approx. 200	1	0	187	0

\* greater kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*).

**Diagnosis:** the disease has yet to be confirmed. However, the clinical presentation and preliminary results are highly indicative of a SAT-virus-related outbreak.

**A. Laboratories where diagnosis is being carried out:** Botswana Vaccine Institute and Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, United Kingdom (OIE Reference Laboratories for foot and mouth disease).

**B. Diagnostic tests used:**

- On immediate screening by ELISA<sup>(1)</sup>, 7 out of the 9 bovine serum samples sent were found to be positive for SAT 1 and SAT 2, but after three passages with sensitive cell culture (pig kidney cell line), no FMD virus was detected in any samples (i.e. epithelium, oesophago-pharyngeal epithelial samples [probangs] and serum).
- The kudu samples were similarly positive on immediate screening by ELISA, but no virus was detected after two passages with sensitive cell culture (pig kidney cell line). Titration is being done on the screen-positive sera to determine the level of antibody activity that may be present (results awaited).

**C. Causal agent:**

- In cattle: SAT 1 or 2 suspected from preliminary ELISA screening test results, but negative on virus isolation.
- In kudu: SAT 1 suspected from preliminary ELISA screening test results, but negative on virus isolation.

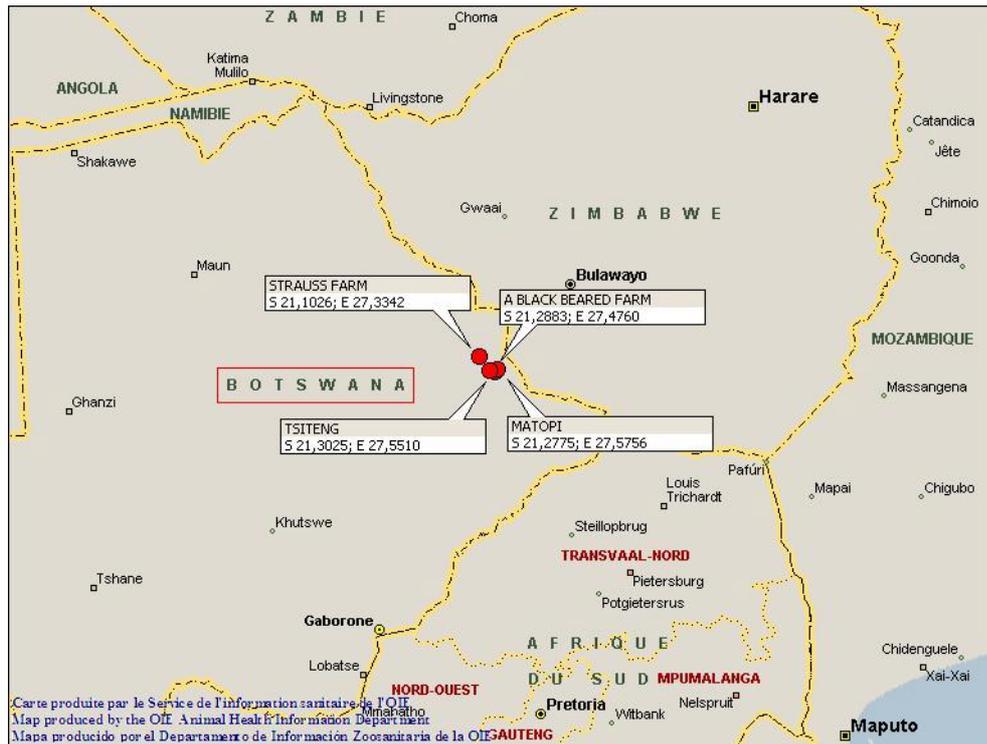
**Epidemiology:**

**A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** unknown.

**B. Mode of spread:** suspected to be contact with infected animals or material.

**Control measures during reporting period:**

- a. **Area demarcation:** see Follow-up report No. 1.
- b. **Biosecurity:** see Follow-up report No. 1.



- c. **Quarantine and movement restrictions:** see Follow-up report No. 1.
- d. **Stamping out:** Mass destruction of cattle at crushes in the infected zones finished on 23 January 2003, with 3,012 cattle destroyed.

*Summary of destruction figures from the infected zone*

<i>crush</i>	<i>bovines</i>	<i>pigs</i>
Matopi	842	
Tsiteng	928	
Strauss (Mokata)	286	58
Annah Blackbeard Farm	187	
Maswikiti	338	
Old Blackbeard Farm	226	
Strauss (Shashe)	205	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,012</b>	<b>58</b>

A mopping-up exercise has begun, using ground teams which will soon be reinforced by aerial surveys to spot animals. The area remains blockaded to prevent any incursion by animals from the surveillance zone.

Given the ability of pigs to contract and transmit the disease easily, all 58 pigs in the only pig farm in the infected zone were destroyed as a precautionary measure.

- e. **Vaccination:** Vaccination stopped on the 19 January 2003, to give way to the destruction of all vaccinated animals.

**f. Surveillance:**

In cattle: The first round of clinical surveillance and serological sampling in the immediate surveillance zone (which covers Francistown district [Veterinary Disease Control Zone No. 6] and Selebi-Phikwe district [Veterinary Disease Control Zone No. 7]), is complete, with 23,398 of the estimated 40,000 cattle having been inspected. Serum samples were collected from 5,600 cattle in crushes considered to be in very high risk areas. There were no lesions or other clinical signs suggestive of FMD. This coverage (58%) is considered poor, and as such a follow-up campaign was therefore started on 21 January 2003, with extended effort to enhance coverage. Part of the reason

for the disparity in figures is attributable to drought (a lot of animals have died since the last census).

In small stock: Historically, these have played a relatively less significant role in the epidemiology of FMD in this country. To minimise chances of inspection teams infecting small stock, their detailed inspection will be done after the disease in cattle has been contained.

In pigs: Given their ability to contract and transmit the disease easily, all 58 pigs in the only pig farm in the infected zone were destroyed as a precautionary measure.

In wildlife: The FMD survey in resident cloven-hoofed wildlife species (kudu [*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*] and impala [*Aepyceros melampus*]) to establish the extent of the disease started on 20 January 2003 and is continuing. Boma capturing and darting are techniques being used to capture these animals. To date, 17 kudu and 48 impala have been inspected, and were found to have no lesions suggestive of FMD. Serum samples and probangs were also taken.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

\*  
\* \*

### CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN BULGARIA Follow-up report No. 3

Information received on 29 January 2003 from Dr Nikola T. Belev, Delegate of Bulgaria to the OIE:

**End of previous report period:** 29 December 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **16** [1], 2, dated 3 January 2003).

**End of this report period:** 29 January 2003.

**New outbreaks:**

Location	No. of outbreaks
Brestnik, Plovdiv region	1

**Description of affected population in the new outbreak:** non vaccinated animals in a private pig farm.

**Total number of animals in the new outbreak:**

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
sui	14	9	2	12	0

**Diagnosis:**

**A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Institute, Sofia (national laboratory for classical swine fever).

**B. Diagnostic tests used:**

- enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA);
- direct immunofluorescence test.

**Epidemiology:** unknown.

**Control measures during reporting period:**

- control of wildlife reservoirs;
- quarantine and movement control inside the country;
- stamping out;
- screening;
- surveillance and monitoring.

### BLUETONGUE IN YUGOSLAVIA

(Date of previous outbreak of bluetongue in Yugoslavia reported to the OIE: November 2001).

Extract from a monthly report of Yugoslavia for October 2002, received from the Federal Minister of Economy and Domestic Trade, Belgrade:

Location	October 2002*	
	No. of outbreaks	No. of cases
Ub, Šabac	1	8
Kosjerić, Kraljevo	4	6
Priboj, Kraljevo	4	11

\* The report also indicates that bluetongue was present in September 2002.

Note: No information for July and August 2002 has been received at the OIE Headquarters.

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\* \*

### SHEEP POX IN KUWAIT

(Date of previous outbreak of sheep pox in Kuwait reported to the OIE: February 2002).

Extract from the monthly report of Kuwait for November 2002, received from Dr Sultan Al-Khalaf, Deputy Director General, The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF), Safat:

Location	No. of outbreaks in November 2002
Salmi	1

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
ovi	1,200	46	6	0	0

Extract from the monthly report of Kuwait for December 2002, received from Dr Sultan Al-Khalaf, Deputy Director General, The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF), Safat:

Location	No. of outbreaks in December 2002
Jahra	1

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
ovi	224	4	1	0	0

\*  
\* \*

### NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN KUWAIT

*(Date of previous outbreak of Newcastle disease in Kuwait reported to the OIE: September 2001).*

*Extract from the monthly report of Kuwait for November 2002, received from Dr Sultan Al-Khalaf, Deputy Director General, The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF), Safat:*

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks in November 2002</i>
Wafra	1

**Total number of animals in the outbreak:**

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
avi	100,000	15,000	15,000	0	0

*Extract from the monthly report of Kuwait for December 2002, received from Dr Sultan Al-Khalaf, Deputy Director General, The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF), Safat:*

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks in December 2002</i>
Shegaya	1

**Total number of animals in the outbreak:**

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
avi	150,000	30,000	30,000	0	0

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