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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN CANADA Additional information (follow-up report No. 1)

Information received on 3 June 2003 from Dr Brian Evans, Executive Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Ottawa:

End of previous report period: 20 May 2003 (see *Disease Information*, **16** [21], 125, dated 23 May 2003).

End of this report period: 3 June 2003.

The case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was detected as part of Canada's ongoing surveillance programme.

Geographical location of the BSE case: Wanham – 180 km north-west of Edmonton, province of Alberta.

Comments concerning affected population: a Black Angus cow in a herd of 192 head established in 2001.

The ongoing investigation into the cause of this case of BSE is focusing on confirmation of the cow's birthplace and the history of the feeding practices and sources of animal feed for this cow. Herds where the animal has resided since its birth are being investigated as well as other related sites.

As a consequence, the CFIA initially quarantined a total of 17 premises: 12 in the province of Alberta, 2 in the province of Saskatchewan and 3 in the province of British Columbia. These included: the index herd, 10 premises related to trace-back investigations, 3 trace-forward sites, and 3 other premises as a result of feed investigations. The CFIA has confirmed that no cattle have been exported from herds that had been quarantined dating back to January 2003.

The index herd has been fully depopulated and all the remaining animals have tested negative. Negative results from a rapid diagnostic test were validated by immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing. The CFIA will remove the quarantine on the farm following its cleaning and disinfection.

A total of 75 calves sold from the index herd and additional animals which could not be identified precisely or could not be ruled out as progeny of the index herd, on the three trace-forward sites, have been destroyed and have also tested negative to both the rapid diagnostic and the traditional tests. Since 2001, cattle are legally required to be tagged when they leave their premises. This has facilitated the tracing of these calves from the index herd through the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency database. Following on from negative test results for all samples on these three trace-forward sites, they have been released from quarantine as the remaining animals on these sites were neither related to the BSE-positive cow nor to a common feed source. See:

www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/bseesb/invest/20030604tfe.shtml

The information gathered to date has consistently identified one line of inquiry in the trace-back investigation as having the highest probability of the positive animal's movements (www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/bseesb/invest/20030604tbe.shtml). In this line of inquiry, a herd in the province of Saskatchewan where the infected cow is believed to have lived for four years, has been fully depopulated and the animals (49) have tested negative to the rapid test and IHC testing.

Three additional herds in this line of inquiry – 2 in the province of Alberta and 1 in the province of Saskatchewan – have also been depopulated and sampled. The animals in the second herd in Saskatchewan have all tested negative to the rapid test.

The three premises that were quarantined as part of the animal feed investigation have also been fully depopulated as the inspectors could not conclusively establish that ruminant animals on these premises had not been inadvertently exposed to potentially contaminated poultry feed. They include a small number of goats that had consumed the same feed as the cattle. See: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/bseesb/invest/20030604feebete.shtml

On 2 June, the CFIA placed one more farm under quarantine in the province of Alberta in the trace-forward from the first line of inquiry. Animals on this farm, co-mingled in 1998-99 with, and were exposed to the same feed sources as, animals from one of the quarantined premises. The latter premises have been depopulated and the animals have tested negative.

Any additional herd or animal that is found to be at risk as a result of the investigation will also be destroyed and the brains of all animals destroyed will be tested.

No carcasses of quarantined animals will enter either the animal or the human food chain.

To date, approximately 2,000 animals have been subject to quarantine notices and over 1,160 cattle have been removed from farms to be destroyed and sampled for BSE testing. A total of 15 farms remain under quarantine as of 3 June 2003. This number will be reduced as and when additional negative test results become available.

Daily updates are being provided on the CFIA's website, at www.inspection.gc.ca under the heading "BSE Disease Investigation in Western Canada". Interested individuals are also encouraged to subscribe to the list server which will automatically send out e-mail notification of posted material.

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MALIGNANT CATARRHAL FEVER IN FINLAND

(Date of previous outbreak of malignant catarrhal fever in Finland reported to the OIE: 1999).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 5 June 2003 from Dr Riitta Heinonen, Deputy Director General, Food and Health Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki:

Report date: 5 June 2003.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 20 May 2003.

Estimated date of first infection: 15 May 2003.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Province of Lapland (north of the country)	1

Description of affected population: one-year-old bovine animal.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	7	1	0	1	0
ovi	31

Diagnosis: the affected animal was suffering from fever, and some lesions were detected in the mouth. To rule out the possibility of foot and mouth disease (FMD), samples were taken from the sick animal as well as from other cloven-hoofed animals in the farm, and the farm was placed under restrictions. The other cloven-hoofed animals remained healthy during the whole period of the investigation. FMD was ruled out on 26 May 2003 based on laboratory tests carried out at the Danish Veterinary Institute, Lindholm, Denmark. The sick animal was euthanised on 22 May 2003 and organ samples were collected. The diagnosis of malignant catarrhal fever was confirmed on 5 June 2003, based on clinical signs and a positive PCR⁽¹⁾ test result.

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made: National Veterinary and Food Research Institute, Helsinki.

B. Diagnostic tests used: PCR⁽¹⁾ from organ cell suspensions.

Source of agent / origin of infection: ovines on the farm suspected.

Control measures: quarantine of the affected farm.

(1) PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN GERMANY Follow-up report No. 2

Information received on 5 June 2003 from Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Head, Animal Health Division, Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, Bonn:

End of previous report period: 22 May 2003 (see *Disease Information*, **16** [21], 128, dated 23 May 2003).

End of this report period: 4 June 2003.

No further cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have been reported in Germany.

The latest European Commission Decision 2003/386/EC, dated 28 May 2003 (*Official Journal of the European Communities* No. L 133, p. 89), stipulates that the restrictive measures will only apply to the region of the North Rhine-Westphalia *Land* west of the river Rhine [all other *Länder* continue to be free from HPAI], as from 2 June 2003, and will be limited in time until 24 June 2003. The restrictive measures that have so far applied to the region east of the river Rhine have, therefore, been lifted.

The Ordinance amending the First Ordinance on additional protective measures against highly pathogenic avian influenza of 28 May 2003 (German Federal Bulletin, *Bundesanzeiger*, p. 11853) has transposed the protective measures under Community law into German law. Moreover, additional protective measures continue to apply in North Rhine-Westphalia as well as in the whole country.



Measures currently in effect:

In the region of North Rhine-Westphalia west of the river Rhine:

- Neither live poultry (chickens, guinea fowl or turkeys, ducks, geese, pheasants, partridge, quails or doves), hatching poultry eggs, nor untreated or non-heat-treated slurry or bedding material coming

from poultry flocks in the region of North Rhine-Westphalia *Land* west of the river Rhine may be dispatched to other German regions, other European Union Member States or third countries.

Exemptions apply to the region west of the river Rhine for the transportation of slaughter poultry to a slaughterhouse designated by the competent veterinary authority or of baby chicks, young laying hens and poultry breeding flocks to an officially monitored farm in other German regions.

- Fresh poultry meat coming from the protection zone established in North Rhine-Westphalia (within a radius of 10 km around the outbreak as well as the surrounding surveillance zone with an additional radius of 10 km) may only be marketed within Germany with special labelling and has to be obtained, cut, transported and stored separately from other fresh poultry meat.

Within the region west of the river Rhine:

- Table eggs may only be transported from holdings keeping laying hens to the point of packaging either in one-way packages or in containers which have been cleaned and disinfected before and after every use.
- Slaughter poultry intended for immediate slaughter may only be transported in lorries and in boxes or cages cleaned and disinfected before and after every use.
- Baby chicks may only be transported in one-way packaging material destroyed after use.
- Free-range husbandry of poultry was banned in the regions close to the German/Dutch border until 2 June.

In addition, the movement of persons on poultry farms is restricted in North Rhine-Westphalia and appropriate protective measures have been prescribed for persons handling poultry.

On the entire German territory:

There is a ban on events involving poultry.

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