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Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Foot and mouth disease in Libya: follow-up report No. 4 (no new cases) | 191 |
| Foot and mouth disease in South Africa: virus type SAT 2 in the FMD control area | 191 |
| Bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Canada: follow-up report No. 3 (final report) | 192 |
| Classical swine fever in Luxembourg: in domestic pigs | 194 |

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN LIBYA Follow-up report No. 4 (no new cases)

Information received on 10 August 2003 from Dr Giuma Hallul, Director of the Animal Health Department, General Popular Committee of Animal Resources, Tripoli:

End of previous report period: 16 July 2003 (see *Disease Information*, **16** [30], 180, dated 25 July 2003).

End of this report period: 10 August 2003.

The date of the last reported case was 4 July 2003. The control measures remain in force.

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SOUTH AFRICA Virus type SAT 2 in the FMD control area

(Date of previous outbreak of foot and mouth disease in South Africa reported to the OIE: February 2001).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 12 August 2003 from Dr Emily Mmamakgaba Mogajane, Chief Director, Agricultural Production, National Department of Agriculture, Pretoria:

Report date: 9 August 2003.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 7 August 2003.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 9 August 2003.

Estimated date of first infection: 30 July 2003.

The foot and mouth disease (FMD) Buffer Zone is under constant surveillance with twice yearly vaccination of all cattle and strict movement control of all cloven-hoofed animals. As a result of the ongoing surveillance in the Buffer Zone, cases of FMD have been detected on the outer edge of the Buffer Zone, in the north-eastern corner of the country, between the Limpopo River and the Kruger National Park fence, at the Tsikuyu and Bend Mutale areas. Further investigations are being carried out to determine the extent of the infection.

The event can be regarded as an isolated incident. The cases occurred within the FMD Control Area and thus do not affect the export status of the FMD Free Zone of South Africa.

Outbreaks:

| Location | No. of outbreaks |
|---|------------------|
| 22° 22' S – 30° 56' E (Northern Province) | 1 |
| 22° 25' S – 31° 03' E (Northern Province) | 1 |



Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

| species | susceptible | cases | deaths | destroyed | slaughtered |
|---------|-------------|------------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| bov | ... | at least 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Diagnosis: a State veterinarian visited the herds on 8 August 2003 and took samples (10 blood samples and 5 tissue samples), which were dispatched on the same day to the Exotic Diseases Division of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI).

- A. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** diagnosis was confirmed on 9 August 2003 by the Exotic Diseases Division of the OVI.
- B. **Diagnostic tests used:** liquid-phase blocking ELISA⁽¹⁾, PCR⁽²⁾.
- C. **Causal agent:** FMD virus type SAT 2.

Source of agent / origin of infection: the origin of the infection is being investigated. Contact with African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) carriers is suspected. Sequencing of the virus serotype is being conducted by the OVI to try to identify the possible source of infection. The results should become available on 13 or 14 August 2003.

Control measures: all controls on movement within and out of the area have been intensified. All animals in the surrounding areas will be revaccinated. Meetings with adjacent communities were held to increase awareness and encourage people to bring animals for vaccination.

The status of the OIE-recognised disease-free zone of South Africa is not affected by this outbreak, including the export of animals and animal products.

- (1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.
(2) PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

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BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN CANADA Follow-up report No. 3 (final report)

Information received on 12 August 2003 from Dr Brian Evans, Executive Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa:

End of previous report period: 11 June 2003 (see *Disease Information*, **16** [24], 143, dated 13 June 2003).

End of this report period: 12 August 2003.

On 20 May 2003, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) commenced a comprehensive investigation into a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) reported in the province of Alberta. This case was detected as part of Canada's ongoing BSE surveillance program instituted in 1992.

The active phase of the investigation was completed in July and resulted in 18 quarantines including 1,700 cattle in two lines of inquiry, trace forwards and the feed investigation. Cattle from all 18 farms have been destroyed, along with an additional 1,000 cattle from 36 trace-out premises in Alberta and Saskatchewan. In total, over 2,000 samples were tested, with negative results. To date, the incidence of BSE in Canada remains confined to one cow, which did not enter the human food chain.

The epidemiological investigation fully considered all potential avenues of introduction or expression of the disease including imported versus indigenous animal origin, maternal transmission, spontaneous or genetic mutation, contaminated feed source, species cross-over of other known animal transmissible encephalopathies and an agro-terrorism event.

It is the considered opinion of the Government of Canada that the animal was born in Canada and was exposed to a contaminated feed source early in its life prior to the feed ban introduced in 1997. The most likely source of contamination of the feed was asymptomatic animals imported into North America from the United Kingdom between 1982 and 1989 that entered the food chain through natural attrition. Further details on the investigation and response to BSE in Western Canada can be found on the CFIA's website at: www.inspection.gc.ca

An independent international team of experts from the public and animal health community of three continents reviewed and validated the findings of the investigation. The experts applauded the investigation as unprecedented in scope and rapidity and having been achieved because of the infrastructure already in place to respond to such unforeseen events. A copy of their report, entitled *Report on Actions taken by Canada in Response to the Confirmation of an Indigenous Case of BSE*, can also be found on the CFIA's website.

On 24 July 2003, the Government of Canada amended the *Food and Drug Regulations* and the *Health of Animals Regulations* to prevent specified risk material (SRM) from entering the human food supply. Enhanced targeted surveillance to further confirm the absence of the disease is also being put in place, and adjustments to the current feed restrictions in place since 1997 remain under consideration.

On 8 August 2003, after having thoroughly reviewed the scientific evidence and weighed many factors as it evaluated potential risks, including the preventive measures that Canada had in place prior to the detection of BSE, such as import controls, feed bans and surveillance measures conducted at levels that met or exceeded the OIE standards, the United States Department of Agriculture determined that the risk to public health was extremely low and consequently partially lifted its ban on Canadian beef. Discussions will begin immediately with Canada's main trading partner aimed at an eventual resumption of trade of live ruminants and other still banned ruminant products. On 11 August 2003, Mexico similarly opened its border.

The CFIA, through additional surveillance and measures taken at slaughter, continues to be committed to the highest possible quality standards in animal and public health protection and disease reporting.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN LUXEMBOURG in domestic pigs

(Date of previous outbreak of classical swine fever in domestic pigs in Luxembourg reported to the OIE: October 2002).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of information received on 14 August 2003 from Dr Arthur Besch, Director of the Veterinary Services Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Luxembourg:

Report date: 14 August 2003.

Date of suspicion: 12 August 2003.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 13 August 2003.

Outbreaks:

| Registration No. | Location |
|------------------|--|
| 2003/01 | Locality of Buschrodt, County of Redange (central-western part of the country) |

Description of affected population: breeding/fattening farm with 1,095 pigs.

Source of agent/origin of infection: the first epidemiological investigations indicate a possible contact with wild boar, as a wild pig killed at 3 km distance from the farm gave positive PCR⁽¹⁾ results on 13 August 2003.

Control measures:

- On 13 August 2003 stamping out was applied on this farm, on a pig farm with 122 pigs, located within the 1-km-radius zone, as well as on a contact farm with 134 pigs.
- Until further notice, there is a ban on all pig movements in Luxembourg, with the exception of transportation to slaughterhouses.

(1) PCR: polymerase chain reaction

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