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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN GREECE Follow-up report No. 2 (final report)

Information received on 11 February 2005 from Dr Vasilios Stylos, Head, Animal Health Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Athens:

End of previous report period: 19 January 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [3], 26, dated 21 January 2005).

End of this report period: 11 February 2005.

The infected farm was officially isolated by decision of the Veterinary Authority of Arcadia and remained completely empty of chickens from 7 January 2005, the date on which stamping out measures were applied.

The restrictive measures remained in force until 9 February 2005, when they were lifted by a new decision issued by the Local Veterinary Authority.

Repopulation is expected to take place during the next few days. For the time being, 200 sentinel birds have been placed on the farm.

Since 6 December 2004, the Veterinary Authority of Arcadia has been conducting an epidemiological survey throughout the prefecture, thus covering an area far greater than a 10-km radius around the infected farm. The survey has found no evidence of Newcastle disease in the area.

Strict vaccination measures have been applied to backyard poultry kept in villages throughout the prefecture. Poultry farms are properly vaccinated against Newcastle disease. The one nearest to the affected farm is located at a distance of 8 km.

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VESICULAR STOMATITIS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Follow-up report No. 11 (final report)

Information received on 11 February 2005 from Dr Peter Fernandez, Associate Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, DC:

End of previous report period: 6 January 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [1], 9, dated 7 January 2005).

End of this report period: 11 February 2005.

In May 2004, the occurrence of vesicular stomatitis (VS) was detected and reported in some roping horses in Reeves County, State of Texas. Serology and viral isolates confirmed that the New Jersey serotype of VS virus was the cause of the outbreak. The APHIS personnel, in collaboration with State and local personnel, and with private veterinary practitioners worked to control the VS epizootic.

The last case of VS in the United States of America was confirmed on 14 December 2004, in the State of Colorado.

As of 14 January 2005, there are no VS quarantined premises in the United States of America.

Surveillance activities are on-going.

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VESICULAR STOMATITIS IN BELIZE

(*Date of previous outbreak of vesicular stomatitis in Belize reported to the OIE:* August 2004).

IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION REPORT

Information received on 14 February 2005 from Dr Victor Gongora, Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Belmopan:

Report date: 14 February 2005.

Reason for immediate notification: re-occurrence of a listed disease in a country.

Precise identification of agent: vesicular stomatitis virus type New Jersey.

Date of first confirmation of the event: 7 February 2005.

Date of start of the event: 5 February 2005.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Details of outbreaks:

First administrative division	Lower administrative division	Type of epidemiological unit	Date of start of the outbreak	Species	Number of animals in the outbreak				
					susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
Cayo	Blackman Eddy	farm	5 Feb. 2005	equ	2	1	0	0	0
Cayo	St. Margaret	farm	7 Feb. 2005	bov	43	3	0	0	0
Cayo	Ontario	farm	8 Feb. 2005	equ	3	1	0	0	0
Cayo	Santa Familia	farm	9 Feb. 2005	equ	2	1	0	0	0
Cayo	Upper Barton Creek	farm	9 Feb. 2005	equ	37	2	0	0	0
Cayo	Pilgrimage Valley	farm	11 Feb. 2005	bov	49	1	0	0	0

Description of affected populations: 'bov' (see table above) refers to beef cattle raised in ranch conditions; 'equ' (see table above) refers to horses used for leisure or work and kept in a forested area.

Diagnosis:

Laboratory where diagnosis was made	Species examined	Diagnostic tests used	Date	Results
Laboratory for vesicular disease diagnosis (LADIVES ⁽¹⁾), Tocumen, Panama	bov + equ	ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay)	11 Feb. 2005	positive for New Jersey serotype

Source of outbreaks: unknown or inconclusive.

Control measures

A. Undertaken:

- quarantine;
- disinfection of infected premises/establishments.

B. To be undertaken: movement control inside the country.

Treatment of affected animals: yes (farmers treat animals by separating affected animals from unaffected animals and using a citrus mouthwash).

Other details/comments: vesicular stomatitis occurs sporadically in Belize, with 0 to 2 outbreaks per year since 1998. The last major outbreak was in 1997 where the disease spread to include three districts in Belize.

(1) LADIVES: *Laboratorio de diagnóstico de vesiculares*

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LUMPY SKIN DISEASE IN SENEGAL Additional information

SEE DISEASE INFORMATION, 18 (5), 41, DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2005

Translation of information received on 14 February 2005 from Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, Delegate of Senegal to the OIE:

Report date: 9 February 2005.

Description of affected population: the affected herd consists of 10 extensively raised cattle of the Ndama breed.

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WEST NILE FEVER IN CUBA
Virus detection in equids

IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION REPORT

Translation of information received on 16 February 2005 from Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Director General of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Ministry of Agriculture, Havana:

Report date: 16 February 2005.

Reason for immediate notification: an emerging disease with significant morbidity or mortality, or zoonotic potential.

Date of first confirmation of the event: 10 December 2004.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory. Animals testing positive for West Nile fever virus were detected within the framework of the surveillance programme for West Nile fever. There have been no clinical signs.

Details:

First administrative division	Lower administrative division	Type of epidemiological unit	Species	Number of animals in the outbreak				
				susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
Havana City	Arroyo Naranjo	farm	equ	9	2	0	0	0
Havana City	Cotorro	farm	equ	8	1	0	0	0
Havana City	Guanabacoa	farm	equ	15	1	0	0	0
Havana	Alquizar	farm	equ	5	1	0	0	0

Description of affected population: the population sampled consisted of 210 animals, out of which 5 animals (3 adults and 2 young animals) gave positive results. These were mixed-breed working animals.

Diagnosis:

Laboratories where diagnosis was made	Species examined	Diagnostic tests used	Date	Results
Virology Department, Pedro Kouri Institute for Tropical Medicine ⁽¹⁾ , Havana City	equ	- immunohistochemical test; - virus neutralisation test.	10 Dec. 2004	positive
National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg, Canada	equ	virus neutralisation test	20 Jan. 2005	positive

Origin of infection: unknown or inconclusive.

Control measures to be undertaken: control of arthropods.

Treatment of affected animals: no.

Other details/comments:

- Active surveillance has been increased in birds and equids in the affected zones and neighbouring zones.
- The inhabitants in the area have been informed.

(1) Pan-American Health Organization Collaborating Centre for the Study of Viral Diseases

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THAILAND
Follow-up report No. 45

Information received on 17 February 2005 from Dr Yukol Limlamthong, Director General, Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Bangkok:

End of previous report period: 10 February 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [6], 57, dated 11 February 2005).

End of this report period: 17 February 2005.

Identification of agent: highly pathogenic avian influenza virus subtype H5N1.

Details of new outbreaks:

First administrative division	Lower administrative division	Type of epidemiological unit	Name of the location	Date of start of the outbreak	Species	Number of animals in the outbreak				
						susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
SuphanBuri province	Song Phinong district	village	Thung Khok	9 Feb. 2005	avi	17,800	1,749	1,749	16,051	0
PhitsanuLok province	Wat Bot district	village	Tha Ngam	11 Feb. 2005	avi	...	...	...	...	...
PhitsanuLok province	Bang Rakam district	village	Khui Muang	11 Feb. 2005	avi	...	...	...	...	...
PhitsanuLok province	Muang district	village	Phra That Buang Phuan	14 Feb. 2005	avi	2,400	70	70	2,330	0

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: native chickens, layers, quails.

Diagnosis:

Laboratories where diagnosis was made	Diagnostic tests used	Results
National Institute of Animal Health and seven Regional Veterinary Research and Development Centers	- agar-gel precipitation test; - haemagglutination test; - haemagglutination inhibition test; - pathogen isolation by egg inoculation; - intracerebral pathogenicity index test.	positive

Control measures undertaken:

- stamping out;
- quarantine;
- movement control inside the country;
- screening;
- zoning;
- disinfection of infected premises/establishments.

Treatment of affected animals: no.

Vaccination prohibited: yes.

Other details/comments:

- These outbreaks are part of the highly pathogenic avian influenza epizootic affecting the country since the re-occurrence of the disease on 3 July 2004.
- Since the beginning of February 2005, the DLD has been conducting active surveillance nationwide.

RABBIT HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN URUGUAY
Follow-up report No. 1

Translation of information received on 17 February 2005 from Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti, Ministry of Animal Production, Agriculture and Fisheries, Montevideo:

End of previous report period: 28 December 2004 (see *Disease Information*, **17** [53], 401, dated 31 December 2004).

End of this report period: 11 February 2005.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Montevideo city	58
Canelones department	26
Total	84

Description of affected population: backyard domestic rabbits.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
lep	5,332	1,127	2,035	3,297	0

Diagnosis:

A. Laboratory where diagnosis was confirmed: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna 'B. Ubertini', Brescia, Italy (OIE Reference Laboratory for rabbit haemorrhagic disease).

B. Diagnostic tests used:

- ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay);
- examination by the Veterinary Laboratories Division (DILAVE – *División Laboratorios Veterinarios*) of the four samples of liver and spleen provided.

C. Causal agent: RHDVa variant of rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus.

Epidemiology: the disease is still occurring in the suburban areas of the city of Montevideo and in adjacent areas in the Department of Canelones.

Control measures during reporting period:

- Slaughter and destruction of both sick and healthy animals present in the affected establishments under the supervision of the official service.
- Disinfection of premises and equipment.
- Disinsectisation by fumigation.
- Control of rodents and birds.
- Burning and burying of dead rabbits, skins and faeces, feedstuffs.
- Recommendations were issued aimed at preventing gatherings of rabbit producers and related persons.
- Vaccination was started in adjacent establishments, neighbouring establishments and establishments where the disease has not been reported but which are situated in an area at risk. A total of 63,611 vaccine doses were distributed during the month of December 2004. The vaccine used is an inactivated virus vaccine with oil adjuvant destined for subcutaneous administration. It was imported from Spain using funds from the Permanent Compensation Fund for Foot and Mouth Disease. Vaccine is provided free of charge by the official Veterinary Services, with the assistance of other public or private institutions. Vaccination will not be applied in commercial rabbit farms unless necessary.
- Control of the movements of persons, animals and vehicles; ban on the movement of rabbits to other establishments and fairs.

MISCELLANEOUS: HENDRA VIRUS FINDINGS IN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

Information received on 15 December 2004 and 4 February 2005 from Dr Gardner Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA), Canberra:

Report date: 15 December 2004.

The Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPIF) has advised that a horse, examined by a veterinarian on 1 December 2004 and subsequently euthanized, on a small property south of Townsville has tested positive to Hendra virus in both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and immunoperoxidase tests conducted by the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL). This is an isolated case. There are no other horses on the property and no horses on any neighbouring properties. The horse was in a paddock reported to be under a flight path of a bat colony present in a privately owned wildlife sanctuary, approximately 800 metres away. This appears to be another case of a single horse positive for Hendra virus.

Queensland Health has been notified and is tracing and assessing people linked to this case. QDPIF has issued a media release targeted to practising veterinarians to remind them of the need to take adequate occupational health and safety precautions when investigating possible cases of infection with Hendra virus.

In a separate incident, Hendra virus is also suspected in a horse that died south of Cairns on 26 October 2004, although no samples were taken to support this diagnosis at the time the horse was autopsied. A veterinary practitioner who performed the autopsy has subsequently been found serologically positive for Hendra virus. The veterinarian is currently well. All in-contact horses on this property have tested negative for Hendra virus.

The two incidents in north Queensland (one near Cairns and one near Townsville) are some 280 km apart and are unrelated. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is not aware of any animals from north Queensland currently undergoing preparation for export. Future shipments of animals of Australian origin are not affected by these incidents.

These cases do not reflect a change in the known distribution or epidemiology of Hendra virus in Australia. They are consistent with previous findings⁽¹⁾. Hendra virus is a viral infection associated with flying foxes (fruit bats). Sporadic infections may occur in horses that come in close contact with infected flying foxes or their body fluids.

Infection with Hendra virus in horses seems to occur during the parturition (birthing) season of flying foxes (generally September to December in north Queensland) and the virus has previously been isolated from urine and fluids associated with the birth process. Hendra virus is not highly contagious: horses are thought to be infected by eating material heavily contaminated with the virus (e.g. via bat urine or birth products). Signs in horses include breathing difficulties, high fever, and blood-tinged foamy discharge from nose and mouth.

(1) For details on the first cases observed see *Disease Information*, **7** (39), 166, dated 14 October 1994, *Disease Information*, **8** (38), 118, dated 27 October 1995, and their respective follow-up reports.

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