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ANNEX III



REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK SERVICES

REPORT ON THE SITUATION ON
FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

MONTEVIDEO, JANUARY 2001

FMD FREE COUNTRY NOT PRACTISING VACCINATION

I. RESUME OF REPORT

Resumé of Report of Country which applies for status, under Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code*, as an FMD free country not practising vaccination.

- 1. Regular and prompt animal disease reporting**
(Describe here the national system and to who you provide international disease reporting)

The National System of Information and Surveillance of animal diseases is made up of: a) detection units (43 local and area offices of the Field Services (Servicios de Campo) of the Animal Health Division (División de Sanidad Animal- DSA) distributed throughout the country; b) communication channels via telephone or telefax or e-mail; c) central unit (Department of Sanitary Programs [Departamento de Programas Sanitarios] of the Animal Health Division); data collection, processing and feedback; d) frequency of information dispatch: weekly if negative to the presence of the disease or immediate if there is justified suspicion of presence of diseases of list A.

Our country participates in the regional information system (of the River Plate Basin with regard to Foot and Mouth Disease [FMD] and similar diseases), continental information system (of the FMD Pan-American Centre with regard to vesicular diseases) and world-wide information system (of OIE with regard to diseases of list A and B). All the information is communicated by the General Department of Livestock Services (Dirección General de Servicios Ganaderos) of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca). In the regional and continental information systems, the frequency of information dispatch is weekly in case of absence of FMD or immediate in case of presence of the disease. In the world-wide information system of diseases of OIE, frequency of communication complies with the stipulations of the International Zoosanitary Code, version 2000, Part 1, Title 1.1, Chapter 1.1.3. Notification and Epidemiological Data, Article 1.1.3.3 regarding notifications within 24 hours, weekly, monthly or annual, as befit.

- 2. No FMD outbreak in country in past 12 months**
(State date of last outbreak and refer to FMD eradication section)

The last reported outbreak of FMD was dated 18 June 1990. The disease re-entered the country on 23 October 2000 and was eradicated on the 25 October 2000, with destruction of susceptible affected animals and those in direct contact. On top of application of stamping out and burial of the animals,

the following sanitary actions were applied to consolidate the eradication: zonation of the country with isolation of the Department of Artigas, zonation of the Department (focal and peri-focal zones), payment of compensation for the eliminated goods, disinfection, control of movement of animals, products and by-products of animal origin, sanitary and control checkpoints, epidemiological follow up, seroepidemiological studies, use of sentinel animals and future repopulation.

A total of 10,040 samples of serum from susceptible animals were collected within the peri-focal area, of which 3,333 corresponded to ovine. All yielded negative results, thus proving absence of viral activity.

All these measures were promptly communicated to OIE and were published by that Office in the Sanitary Information of days 27 October, 3, 10, 17 and 24 November, 1st and 22 December 2000 and 5 January 2001.

3. No vaccination in country in past 12 months

(State here whether vaccination in the country is prohibited, since what date, and briefly describe how this is enforced)

Vaccination is prohibited in our country as from 16 June 1994, as well as possession of live or inactivated virus by public or private institutions. As a consequence of this prohibition, since that date the country has ceased to produce vaccine against FMD and laboratory procedures that pose any risk, for example, study of diagnostic materials suspected of FMD, are not carried out. Such material is sent to the regional reference centre (Pan-American Centre for FMD, CPFA). The Sanitary Authority may carry out epidemiological studies. If the results of these studies evidence the presence of vaccinated animals, the Official Veterinary Services are entitled to send such animals for mandatory slaughter to an abattoir or to slaughter them on the spot, if epidemiological circumstances make it necessary.

4. No entry of vaccinated animals into country since cessation of vaccination

(State date of prohibition of entry of vaccinated animals, and refer to method of enforcement under section on FMD prevention)

Entry of vaccinated animals is prohibited as from 16 June 1994. If animals vaccinated against FMD were to enter the country, transgressing zoo-sanitary importation regulations, the MGAP is empowered to seize and slaughter such animals at approved abattoirs and to destine them to domestic consumption. In case the epidemiological circumstances make it necessary, the MGAP may order the slaughter of the animals on the spot.

5. Surveillance and regulatory measures

A. Surveillance

(Briefly describe system, refer to section on FMD surveillance)

In Uruguay, vesicular diseases are of mandatory report.

Farmers and public or private veterinarians must immediately report any suspicion of the presence of a vesicular disease at the offices of the official veterinary services. Since 18 June 1990, when the last outbreak of the disease occurred, until October 2000, when the disease was reintroduced, 100% of the reports of suspected disease were studied and rejected from the epidemiological, clinical, pathological and laboratory points of view. All the professionals working for the official services are highly trained in clinical and epidemiological diagnosis of FMD, while the veterinarians working in the private area are regularly trained through update courses.

The diagnostic capacity of the official laboratory is assured, since it has the appropriate premises and the necessary equipment in order to carry out techniques such as ELISA test. Furthermore, the technical staff is trained to perform such tests.

In case of any suspicion of FMD, if and when the suspicion is rejected, laboratory procedures are carried out in order to arrive to a differential diagnosis.

Periodical sero-epidemiological samplings with national statistical significance have been carried out, and all have yielded negative results. As a consequence of the reintroduction of the disease, the sero-epidemiological sampling was intensified from August to October 2000, and samples were taken from two places: 1) 1,238 herds were sampled at slaughter plants and 7,369 samples were taken and 2) 3,303 samples were taken from 165 farms, totalling 10,672 serum samples, all of which yielded negative results.

B. Regulatory measures

(Briefly describe measures, refer to section on FMD prevention)

The legislation on FMD is based on Act N° 16,082, dated 18 October 1989 and its regulatory decrees, i.e., N° 244/990, dated 30 May 1990 and N° 261/994, dated 7 June 1994 and complementary regulations; Section 285 of Act 16,736, dated 5 January 1996; Decree 338/999, dated 20 November 1999; Decree 141/996, dated 18 April 1996 and Act N° 16,690, dated 15 November 1996.

The legislation in force establishes that the Sanitary Authority responsible for the Programme for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease is the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, through the General

Department of Livestock Services. This Department is entitled to adopt the following sanitary measures: decree of risk farms, risk area, anticipated slaughter, payment of compensation, interdictions, slaughters, repopulating, control of cattle movement, epidemiological studies and any other measure deemed necessary in order to carry out its assigned tasks.

Furthermore, it establishes mandatory reporting of any suspicion of FMD or similar clinical pictures for livestock owners or holders, carriers of susceptible animals and veterinarians in general.

As from 16 June 1994, the country entered into the Second Stage. With the objective of keeping the status of country free from FMD without vaccination, several measures were taken as from that date:

- a) prohibition of vaccination throughout the national territory as from 16 June 1994;
- b) prohibition of possession of live virus by private organisations or agencies from the Executive Power;
- c) administrative seizure of vaccine against FMD still in the hands of distributors on 16 June 1994. Once the validity of the respective series expired, they were destroyed in the presence of the Sanitary Authority;
- d) creation of a committee for Risk Analysis for the study of importation of animals and products of animal origin, on the basis of the international recommendations established in the International Zoo-sanitary Code;
- e) creation of a System of Sanitary Barriers (phyto- and zoo-sanitary) in order to control the crossings at borders, ports and airports, as well as to avoid the informal introduction of animals, plants, products and by-products of animal and plant origin, in vehicles, shipments and travellers' personal luggage, through any means of transportation (aerial, land, sea or river);
- f) control of garbage dumping; prohibition of keeping susceptible animals near dumps and of using garbage for animal feed.
- g) Since 16 June 1994, no animals vaccinated against FMD are allowed to enter the country.
- h) Creation of a National System of Sanitary Emergency (Sistema Nacional de Emergencia Sanitaria-SINAESA) which will begin operating in case of an outbreak of FMD or any other exotic disease. Furthermore, its integration is established (Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, Ministry of Economy and Finances, through the National

Department of Customs), its tasks and the sanitary measures to adopt in case of sanitary emergency;

- i) Participation in the Regional Committee for the Control and Eradication of FMD in the Basin of the River Plate, integrated by the General Department of Livestock Services, together with the sanitary authorities from Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and the Pan-American Health Organisation, through the Pan-American Centre of FMD.

Enclosed: Report contents

NOTE: ANNEXES FOR THE FOLLOWING REPORT WHICH ARE NOT IN ONE OF THE THREE OFFICIAL OIE LANGUAGES SHOULD HAVE A BRIEF SUMMARY IN ONE OF THESE LANGUAGES.

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FOREWORD

During the 61st General Session of the OIE, on May 1993, Uruguay was recognised as a country free from FMD with vaccination. Previously, on March 1993, this organisation sent a mission to evaluate the sanitary status of the disease in our country. This mission was integrated by Doctors U. Kihm, from Switzerland (Chief), V. Astudillo, from PANAFTOSA in Brazil, W. Sterritt, from Canada, and R. Reichard, Chief of the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE. Their report may be found in the minutes of the General Assembly of May 1993.

Through a Resolution of the 64th General Assembly of the OIE, on 23 May 1996, our country was included in the list of countries free from FMD without vaccination. According to the resolution of the 65th General Assembly on May 1997, those Member Countries whose territories have been registered as free from FMD, must reconfirm annually, on the month of November, in writing, that both their situation and the criteria which backed their recognition are kept. Our country has complied with this requirement on the years 1997, 1998 and 1999.

During the last decade, our country has received several technical missions for sanitary inspection from countries and from international organisations. The results have been very satisfactory and the country's veterinary system has attained high credibility.

On this year, due to the re-appearance of FMD, our country was visited by a mission integrated by international observers from 4 to 8 November and by another from the OIE/PANAFTOSA from 7 to 8 November 2000.

We herein enclose resolutions from the OIE and the reports from the technical missions that visited our country in the year 2000 (Annex 1 – Foreword).

1. Introduction

The Republic of Uruguay is located on the Southeast coast of South America, limiting to the North with the Federal Republic of Brazil, to the South with the River Plate, to the East with the Atlantic Ocean and to the West with the Republic of Argentina. It lays approximately between parallels 30° and 35° South and meridians 53° and 58° West. (Annex 2 – 1. Introduction).

The land area (including continental land and islands) is 176,557 km².

Total population of Uruguay is 3,163,663 (according to the 1996 Census), distributed in urban population (90.8%) and rural population (9.20%). The population density is 17.95 inhabitants per km² and 48% of the population are men, while 52% are women. The economically active population in the year 1996 was 45.5%, 14.8% of which corresponded to the primary sector, while 24.8% worked in the secondary sector and 63.3% in the tertiary sector. Other interesting demographic data are: life expectancy at birth is 74.32 years, gross mortality rate is 9.7 o/oo, alphabetisation rate is 96.9%, infant mortality rate is 14.5 o/oo.

The geographical space is dominated by gently rolling hills covered by grassland (average high is 116.70 m), with no geographical features of relevance, allowing for easy farming, transportation and movement of livestock.

The climate is temperate, moderately humid, without great variations between summer and winter, mainly due to the influence of the sea. The average summer temperature is 23°C, the autumn 18°C, the winter 11°C and the spring 17°C. The annual rain average is between 1,000 and 1,300 mm, with light seasonal variations. It rains less in summer than in winter.

The grassland ecosystem allows grazing throughout the year through for both bovine and ovine species. Hence the importance of the livestock sector for the country's economy, since from its origin as a nation, the economy has been based on the livestock sector, mainly on the production of meat and wool.

1.1. Regional framework

The countries of the sub-region of the Basin of the River Plate (Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay) and the Pan-American Centre for FMD (CPFA/OPS) identified the need to establish a regional programme as critical. They signed in 1987 the Agreement for the Control and Eradication of FMD in the Basin of the River Plate. This agreement came into action as from 1989. In 1992 Paraguay was annexed into the agreement, as well as Bolivia in 1998 (Annex 3. 1. Introduction. 1.1. Regional framework).

The geographical area of the Agreement includes at present: in Argentina, the Provinces of Salta and Jujuy, Misiones, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Formosa, Chaco, Santa Fe and the municipalities in the North of the Province of Buenos Aires that border with Entre Ríos; in Bolivia, the Department of Santa Cruz; in Brazil, the States of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná, and all the territory of Paraguay and Uruguay.

The first stage ended in 1993 and had the objective of achieving clinical absence of FMD within the region. This aim was attained within the time frame programmed.

As from the application of common strategies, a marked decrease in the incidence of FMD was attained and a major part of the area evidenced clinical absence of the disease.

The results of the strategy aimed at reducing the endemic presence of the disease and at breaking the historical seasonality of the disease in the region, are to be highlighted. A drastic reduction of the disease within the pioneer area of the agreement was proved.

The second stage developed between 1994 and 1997, with the aim of eradicating the disease within the pioneer area (Argentine Mesopotamia: Provinces of Misiones, Corrientes and Entre Ríos, Brazil: State of Rio Grande do Sul, the Eastern area of Paraguay and all the territory of Uruguay) and of strengthening the control within the areas of Argentine (Provinces of Formosa, Chaco, Santa Fe, Northern limits of the Province of Buenos Aires) and Brazil (State of Santa Catarina), that joined in. At this stage, Uruguay was included in the list of countries free from FMD without vaccination (May 1996), while Argentine and Paraguay were included in the list of countries free from FMD with vaccination (May 1997) and Brazil (States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina) as a zone free from FMD with vaccination (May 1998).

The third stage began in 1997 and is planned to continue until the year 2001. Its objective is to maintain the sanitary situation achieved and consolidated it within the South of South America. The strategy is to implement mechanisms for the prevention and epidemiological surveillance in order to strengthen areas free from FMD without vaccination and to extend the epidemiological borders of the Agreement. The goal is to preserve the eradication and to avoid the risk of re-introduction of FMD. Vaccination against the disease has been discontinued, in Uruguay on 15 June 1994, in Argentine on 30 April 1998, in Paraguay on 1st August 1998 and in Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina) on 1st May 2000. The areas annexed in 1998 were the Provinces of Salta and Jujuy of Argentine and the eastern plains of Bolivia.

During the regional emergency due to the re-introduction of FMD in the year 2000, the information and the actions were co-ordinated with the countries included in the Project of Eradication of FMD within the Basin of the River Plate.

1.2. Livestock Industry

At present, the livestock sector represents 8.5% of the total economy measured through the GNP. It occupies about 141 thousand workmen, in approximately 51 thousand farms that cover 94% of the total farming surface. According to the production specialisation, 69% of the farms are devoted to livestock farming and occupy 71% of the farming land, 20% are dedicated both to livestock and agriculture and occupy 22% of the farming land and finally, 11% are dairy farms and occupy only 6% of the farming land.

The bovine and ovine population of the country is distributed in these farms. According to the information gathered by the last sample of DICOSE (Division for the Control of Livestock Herds) in the year 2000, the stock is estimated at 10,378,000 cattle and 13,032,000 sheep. In our country, cattle and sheep are farmed together, sharing the same pasture (Annex 4 -1. Introduction-1.2. Livestock industry).

Livestock produces (beef, mutton, milk, hides, pork) represent approximately 49.9% of GNP of the farming sector, while the remaining 50.1% corresponds to agricultural produces. Furthermore, within the livestock sector, products derived from extensive farming, such as meat and wool, are the most important with relation to their participation in the economy, while products derived from intensive farming, headed by dairy products, are still economically less important, although they are undergoing a dynamic surge.

In Uruguay, beef and mutton production are carried out under totally natural conditions. The production system used is based on grazing on natural pastures, with some complementation with implanted pastures and natural pastures improved with the introduction of legumes. During the agricultural year 1997/1998, the annual production was of 860 thousand tons of bovine meat on hoof, 126 thousand tons of ovine meat on hoof and 78.3 thousand tons of wool (on a dirty base).

The annual production of beef reaches on average 420 thousand tons, of which 270 to 250 thousand tons are exported, while the remaining 150 to 170 thousand tons are consumed domestically.

The average annual slaughter of bovine during the last two decades was slightly higher than 1.7 million heads, with the following composition: 52% steer, 43% cows and the remaining categories 5%.

Present export markets for Uruguayan meat are Brazil, European Union, Israel, Chile, United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, Canary Islands, Hong Kong, Singapore and Saudi Arabia, among others.

A high percentage of the exports is made of high quality de-boned cuts, which usually find very good receptivity at international markets.

The total ovine extraction is carried out through slaughter and exportation on hoof, and the annual average during the last years has been about 4 million heads. The average annual exportation of mutton is about 15 thousand tons of carcass weigh and the major markets of destination are the European Union, Brazil and Saudi Arabia. An important part of the exportations is made up by de-boned mutton, and the major buyer is the European Union.

Exportations of ovine on hoof, mainly wethers (males castrated at a very young age) have been traditionally destined to Middle East countries, with Saudi Arabia as the major buyer of quantities that have averaged 200 thousand heads for the last three years.

Since the mid '60s, the dairy industry has undergone a stage of very dynamic changes, mainly due to important technological changes, both at the farm and industrial levels. It differs drastically from cattle and sheep production, mainly dependant on natural pastures, in that dairy farming makes important use of artificial pastures, pasture improvement and grain supplementation in minimal amounts.

These factors have elevated the production from 700 million litres in mid '70s to more than 1,400 million litres in 1998. Of these, 1,138 million litres (80%) are processed in industrial plants and only 10% are processed in the farms.

The number of dairy farmers is 6,000, 4,138 of which send their milk to dairy industrial plants, while the rest process their milk at the farm. The dairy stock is approximately 702 thousand animals, mainly of the Holando-Uruguaya (Holstein) breed.

Industrial dairy plants total 35, distributed throughout the country, but concentrated in the South and West. Farmers' coops process 90% of the production.

The composition of dairy exports measured in terms of foreign income is leaded by cheeses, followed by dried milk (whole and skimmed), fresh milk and cream, butter and butter oil.

The major markets of destination for dairy products are Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia and the United States of America.

2. VETERINARY SYSTEM

2.1. Legislation

The animal health legal framework in force in Uruguay empowers the Veterinary Services to prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases throughout the country (Act 3,606, dated 13 April 1910). All the legislation in force is included as Annex 5-2. Veterinary System, 2.1. Legislation.

With regard to FMD, Act 16,082 for the Control and Eradication of FMD was passed on the 18 October 1989. This law plus its regulatory decrees (N°244/990, dated 30 May 1990 and N°261/994, dated 7 June 1994) establish that the General Department of Livestock Services from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) is the sanitary authority empowered to carry out the programme.

The legislation in force establishes that the programme for eradication of FMD is to be carried out in three stages:

- a) A preparatory stage, already finished, with the objective of strengthening the control and detection of infected or carrier animals and of sending them for mandatory slaughter. This stage extended from 18 October 1989 to 10 August 1992.
- b) A first stage, already finished, with the objective of achieving clinical absence of the disease, through massive vaccination of the necessary susceptible species and mandatory slaughter of animals detected by epidemiological research as a risk for FMD. This stage developed between 11 August 1992 and 15 June 1994.

- c) As from 16 June 1994, the second stage began, with the adoption of sanitary actions whose objective is to keep the status of the country as free from FMD without vaccination. These sanitary actions of the second stage are the following:
- I) Prohibition of vaccination throughout the national territory as from 16 June 1994.
 - II) Prohibition of possession of live virus by private organisations or agencies.
 - III) Administrative seizure of vaccine against FMD still in the hands of distributors on 16 June 1994. Once the validity of the respective series expired, they were destroyed in the presence of the Sanitary Authority;
 - IV) Creation of a System of Sanitary Barriers (phyto- and zoo-sanitary) in order to control the crossings at borders, ports and airports, as well as to avoid the informal introduction of animals, plants, products and by-products of animal and plant origin, in vehicles, shipments and travellers' personal luggage, through any means of transportation (aerial, land, sea or river);
 - V) Control of garbage dumping; prohibition of keeping susceptible animals near dumps and of using garbage to feed animals.
 - VI) As from 16 June 1994, no animals vaccinated against FMD are allowed to enter into the country.
 - VII) Anticipated slaughter at abattoirs approved for internal consumption, or slaughter on the spot of the animals entering the country in violation of importation zoo-sanitary regulations.
 - VIII) Creation of a Permanent Compensation Fund for the eradication of FMD and other exotic diseases. It is created on the basis of a 0.21% tax on exportation of livestock products (beef, mutton, milk, wool, etc.). This tax was created by Act 16,082, dated 18 October 1989. Since its creation until it was suspended (1st March 1999) it accumulated over 12 million United States dollars. This quantity was estimated as enough to cover compensation in the worst case possible if FMD were to be re-introduced into the country and affected dairy animals of high genetic value. At present the DGSG is allowed to invest and deposit the takings of this Fund. The dividends accrued shall be used to cover operative expenses in case of an emergency. The same law of eradication of FMD from 1989 foresees that in case the resources of the fund are exhausted, it should be implemented again.
 - IX) Creation of an Appraisal Departmental Commission that will appraise the values for the corresponding compensations in case of destruction of animals, products and by-products or personal property. It is integrated by three members: a representative from the MGAP, a delegate from the farmers and a third neutral member elected by the Ministry and the farmers together.

Compensation shall be paid within a period of thirty (30) days as from the moment the Appraisal Departmental Committee rules out. The Committee has a maximum time of thirty (30) days to finish its work after

The Departmental Commissions shall make a detailed report on the amounts to be paid to the General Department of Livestock Services, taking into account the following criteria: a) market prices on the date of appraisal, taking as a reference the information given by the Trade Chamber of Products of the Country; b) the affected farmer shall be able to decide whether to take the amount fixed as per the information mentioned in a) or to take the money needed to buy new animals, in which case the Commission will attend at the act of purchase.

- X) Creation of a National System of Sanitary Emergency (Sistema Nacional de Emergencia Sanitaria) which will begin operating in case there is an outbreak of FMD or any other exotic disease, and which shall be integrated by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, the Ministry of Economy and Finances, through the National Department of Customs). The tasks and the sanitary measures to adopt in case of sanitary emergency are established.

2.2. Official Veterinary Service

As from 1st January 1994, the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, are named Livestock Services (Executive Unit 005), and in order to fulfil its tasks, are made up of four Divisions: Division of Veterinary Laboratories "Miguel C. Rubino," Division of Animal Health, Division of Animal Industry, Division for the Control of Livestock Herds. See Human and material resources and Geographical Distribution in Annex 6-2. Veterinary System, 2.2. Official Veterinary Service.

General Department of Livestock Services:

Strategic objectives: to promote animal health and to assure the hygienic conditions of the foods and products of animal origin throughout the country, in order to increase their competitiveness and access to international markets and to optimise the image of the country as a producer of foods.

Division of Veterinary Laboratories:

General objective: to diagnose, research and project methods for the prevention, control and eradication of diseases that affect farm animals as well as zoonotic diseases; to control the quality of veterinary products.

Division of Animal Health:

General objective: to promote and defend animal health, through the prevention, control and eradication of diseases which affect domestic animals, allowing them to express their full productive potential. This Division is directly responsible for the

execution of Sanitary Programmes and Campaigns and has 43 Local and Area offices throughout the national territory.

Division of Animal Industry:

General objective: to defend public health of national and foreign consumers, assuring that the industrial process yields a product fit and of high hygienic quality.

Division for the Control of Livestock Herds:

General objective: to control the herds, movements and identification of big farm animals (cattle, horses) and small farm animals (sheep, pigs and goats), as well as livestock produces.

2.3. Role of society, farmers, industry

There is active participation of farmers and veterinarians with private practices in the official sanitary campaigns. This participation has been given institutional form through the National Honorary Commission for Animal Health (Comisión Nacional Honoraria de Salud Animal [CONAHSA]) the Departmental Commissions for Animal Health (Comisiones Departamentales de Salud Animal [CODESA]), working in each department of the country. CONAHSA is integrated by the Director General of the Livestock Services, the Director of Animal Health, a delegate from the Uruguayan Veterinary Society and three delegates from the farmer unions (Rural Association of Uruguay [Asociación Rural del Uruguay], Rural Federation [Federación Rural] and Federated Agricultural Coops [Cooperativas Agrarias Federadas]).

The eighteen CODESAs work in co-ordination with CONAHSA and are integrated by an official veterinarian, a veterinarian from the departmental veterinary centre and three farmers from the departmental unions.

2.3. Veterinary profession

In our country, the study of veterinary sciences began 95 years ago, first as a Veterinary School and, as from 1907, as the Veterinary Faculty. There is only one Veterinary Faculty, which is part of the state controlled University of the Republic.

There are 3,700 veterinarians in the country. Thirty-two hundred work as private practitioners, in coops, companies for technical assistance, agricultural industries, farmers' groups and other organisations, while 500 veterinarians work for the government.

3. FMD ERADICATION

3.1. History

Act N° 12,938, dated 9 November 1961, established that the fight against FMD was to be mandatory throughout the national territory. As from 1st March 1968, with the creation of the Bureau for the Fight against FMD, with the task of conducting and orienting the sanitary campaign for the control of the disease, the first organised actions to fight against FMD started to develop.

Since mid 1968 and for several years, a systematic, total and mandatory vaccination campaign was carried out, including the bovine population and, as from 1975, the ovine population. This campaign included both massive vaccination of susceptible species (bovine and ovine) and control of outbreaks reported. These actions dramatically reduced morbidity indicators and whenever the disease appeared, it was kept isolated in small areas of the country.

As from 1972, the FMD Information and Epidemiological Surveillance System began to develop, with weekly communications of the presence or absence of outbreaks of the disease and protocolisation of the outbreaks. With the information obtained the problem was characterised, as well as its insertion within the regional framework. As a consequence, the fight against the disease was given new impulse, culminating with the Agreement for International Technical Co-operation, signed on 24 June 1987 by Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay and the FMD Pan-American Centre.

An analysis of the situation described, 75 years after Act 3,606 (Animal Health Police Act) was passed, in 1985, permitted the identification of the factors that hindered the advance in the fight against the disease. The mayor step-back was that since the eradication of FMD was not the specific aim, the programme was becoming repetitive, costly and lacking in a strategy adapted to the reality of the regional FMD eco-systems. This factor weakened the fight and could lead to a dangerous recession in the campaign.

The results obtained in the control of the disease lead to the implementation of an eradication campaign within a regional framework, through the Agreement of the River Plate Basin. At the national level, Act 16,082, for the Eradication of FMD, was passed in 1989 and economic resources were obtained through Project 840 Animal Health/MGAP and the Inter-American Development Bank (BID).

With the advise of the FMD Pan-American Centre and the co-ordinator of the River Plate Basin Project, in October 1989 the national strategy in the fight against the disease was re-formulated taking into account the regional one.

The major aspects of this re-formulation of the strategy to be applied in the preparatory and first FMD eradication stages, and developed from October 1989 and June 1994, were the following:

1. Discontinuation of total, mandatory and systematic vaccination of the ovine species, as from 20 February 1988.
2. The national industry began to produce oil-based vaccines, which give long-term immunity.
3. A national vaccination scheme was established, taking into account the seasonal variations that the disease has historically evidenced and the farming systems in order to determine the vaccination periods. Therefore, the following vaccination periods were established: a general one, including the whole national stock, was fixed between 15 February and 31 March, a re-vaccination period for bovines under 2 years, from 15 May to 30 June, and a special vaccination period for calves born within the year, vaccinated once or not vaccinated, from 1st October to 31st October.

4. A strategy of routes of vaccination was adopted. This strategy established a date to begin the vaccination in each farm, and permitted better control and assessing of the vaccination.
5. Priority was given to zones of higher risk, taking into account epidemiological characterisation. This strategic re-formulation was first applied in two pilot areas in the departments of Rivera and Soriano-Flores, characterised by the seasonal permanence of the disease during the last years, in order to evaluate the possibility of applying it throughout the country, specially in the areas and farms at higher risk.
6. A strategy aimed at reducing the risks of FMD outbreaks in the farms at higher risk was enforced. Historical behaviour of the disease, productive characteristics and vaccination background were taken into account to choose the farms. In order to more effectively control the vaccination, and acting in co-ordination with the CODESAs, a certification issued by a veterinarian was requested from the owners of the high-risk farms.
7. The livestock sector was given active participation in the activities of the programme. This participation was carried out through the national and departmental animal health commissions.
8. Co-ordinated and integrated activities with the neighbouring countries were carried out.
9. All the official staff, private veterinarians and farmers were trained, with the objective of eradication.
10. Bio-security was adjusted, both at the private and official levels, in order to adapt to the new epidemiological situation of absence of the disease.

3.2. Strategy

On 16 June 1994, the country entered the second stage of the Programme for Eradication of the disease as a country free from FMD without vaccination. New strategies were adopted, as follows:

1. Prohibition to hold virus for both the laboratories that manufactured vaccines and the official laboratory (Bureau of Veterinary Laboratories "Miguel C. Rubino").
Vaccine production was discontinued, through prohibition of vaccination of bovines as from 16 June 1994.
2. The Risk Analysis Committee was made official, as an advisory body to the General Department of Livestock Services. Its task is to suggest giving or denying authorisation to the importation of animals, animal products and by-products. The parameters to be taken into account by the Committee are those recommended by the International Zoo-sanitary Code, i.e., likeness of the sanitary status, prohibition of importation of animals vaccinated against FMD.
3. The sanitary barriers in force at ports, international airports, border crossings, postal customs and in-land customs were adjusted, as a preventive measure to avoid the re-introduction of the disease. In this way, the risk of informally

entering animals or products of animal origin accompanying travellers, vehicles and loads which enter the country through any means of transportation (sea, river, land, air), was reduced.

4. Control of garbage dumping. Prohibition of keeping susceptible animals near dumps and of using garbage to feed animals. This action was taken in co-ordination with departmental governments.
5. Sanitary education. An intensive extension work was carried out in order to increase public awareness of the goals achieved and to stimulate the responsibility of the different participants in the fight against the disease at this new stage.
6. Epidemiological surveillance. All suspected cases were studied and diagnosed, risk farms were detected and periodical sero-epidemiological samplings with statistical significance at the national level were carried out, with the purpose of confirming the absence of viral activity.

A model was prepared. It is used to characterise the probability of introduction and diffusion of FMD, taking the police district as the basic geographical unit.

7. The re-introduction of FMD either in the region or the country will trigger the declaration of sanitary emergency.

In order to manage such situation, the National System of Sanitary Emergency (Sistema Nacional de Emergencia Sanitaria-SINAESA) was created. Its integration, procedures, stamping out, assessment or compensation of farmers, etc. were established.

The National System of Sanitary Emergency has developed an annual training programme and simulation of action, with the purpose of assuring proper execution of the actions required in case of a Sanitary Emergency.

3.3. Vaccines and vaccination

The vaccines used in our country were tri-valent and contained inactivated antigens of the type O₁, A₂₄ and C₃, plus oil adjuvant. The inactivation of the virus was carried out using first-order inactivant, BEI (Binary Ethylene Imine), the only one authorised by the Official Veterinary Service.

All the vaccine series had to be controlled by the official laboratory (DILAVE) with regard to potency, innocuousness, tolerance, and bacteriological and physical-chemical controls.

Once a vaccine was approved, the following series could be controlled by PGP (protection to pedal spread) or by indirect potency tests (sero-protection, sero-neutralisation) and eventually, by determination of the C index in guinea pigs.

Due to bio-security reasons, as from March 1992, discharge tests in bovine were discontinued.

As from 16 June 1994, vaccine production was discontinued in all the country, through a ban on the holding of virus, both by private and official laboratories.

Uruguay has signed an agreement with the FMD Pan-American Centre (CPFA) to keep mono-valent FMD vaccine in a bank (approximately 300,000 doses) to be used only in case that the disease be re-introduced in such way that it required ring-vaccination in order to stop the spread.

3.4. Organisation

The relevant aspects related with the organisation of the programme were already mentioned in the chapter Veterinary System – Official Veterinary Services (Annex 6).

3.5. Execution

The Official Veterinary Services have been in charge of the execution of the Sanitary Programme for the Eradication of FMD in Uruguay. Private veterinarians and farmers have also participated in the aspects related to the prevention of the disease and reporting the disease and other like clinical cases. Furthermore, they collaborate and participate in the CODESAs and CONAHSA and in the Departmental Assessing Commissions. As in the case of other public and private organisations, the Sanitary Authority may require their co-operation.

3.6. Animal identification – movement

The stock of bovine, ovine, equine and swine, as well as the movement of animals is controlled by the Division for the Control of Livestock Herds (DICOSE). This organisation is part of the Livestock Services. Every livestock holder must be registered with this Division and must make an affidavit (Annex 7-Eradication of FMD, 3.6. Animal identification-movement), which has to be up-dated annually, on the 30th June of each year.

Any animals moving with any destination must be accompanied by a document, the guide of property and transit, identifying the origin and destination of the animals (Department, Police District, DICOSE number of the farmer, identification of the animals, number, etc.) This guide of property and transit must always bear the stamp of the police station.

In case a situation of sanitary emergency be declared, the Official Veterinary Services must give authorisation before any animals are moved.

In Uruguay, the ownership of cattle is presumed through a firebrand, state owned. This brand is unique and is never repeated in the country. The state concedes the use of each brand to a farmer for a 10 years term. Before the expiration of the term, the farmer must re-new the concession. Sheep are marked with a special cut in the ears. Individual identification is used only in the case of pedigree animals.

3.7. Official Veterinary Service supervision

The process of eradication of FMD, as described in this chapter, is supervised and carried out by the Official Veterinary Services, empowered by the legal framework already mentioned.

4. FMD SURVEILLANCE

4.1. Diagnosis

4.1.1. Clinical (notification and investigation procedures, recent numbers)

FMD and like clinical diseases are of mandatory report for owners or holders of susceptible animal species, carriers, private veterinarians and officers depending from the General Department of Livestock Services. Besides reporting the suspected disease, they are obliged to take further measures, such as halting the movement of every livestock product that could contribute to the diffusion of FMD virus. The report is to be filed at the closest police office or at the local or area offices of the services of the Division of Animal Health, which are distributed throughout the country. Between 9 and 42 reports of suspicion of FMD are filed annually by livestock owners or private veterinarians. One hundred percent have been studied and so far rejected by the Official Veterinary Services from the clinical, epidemiological, pathological and laboratory points of view. In all cases a correct diagnosis has been eventually made. (Annex 8-FMD Surveillance, 4.1. Notification and diagnosis).

All the veterinarians working for the official services are highly trained in clinical and epidemiological diagnosis of FMD. Veterinarians working in private practice are regularly trained and up-dated. The "reaction time" of the official services (measured as the period between the time of receipt of the report by the officer and the time of visit to the farm) has an historical average of no more than two hours.

4.1.2. Laboratory (procedures, numbers with results of submissions)

The diagnostic capacity of the official laboratory is assured, since its premises, equipment and trained personnel are appropriate to handle techniques such as ELISA test and recombinant VIA. Three ELISA kits are used: 1) ELISA of competition in liquid phase for detection of antibodies anti-whole particle, supplied by the FMD Pan-American Centre, 2) FMD 3 ABC monoclonal antibody trapping ELISA for non-structural particles, supplied by Pirbright Brescia) and 3) ELISA UBI for non-structural particles, supplied by UBI FMDV NS EIA Biomedical Inc. NY, USA, licenced by Plum Island/USDA.

In every case of suspicion of FMD, once it is dismissed, laboratory procedures are used to make a differential diagnosis.

4.1.3. Information system and epidemiological surveillance

The information generated through epidemiological surveillance activities is entered into national, regional and continental (American) information systems (Annex 3).

The national system of information and epidemiological surveillance, as well as the system implemented within the region of the agreement works as follows (Annex 9-4. FMD Prevention, 4.3. Information system and epidemiological surveillance):

- a) Detection units: the area or local veterinary services.
- b) Communication channels: telephone, fax or e-mail.

- c) Frequency: weekly, in case of no occurrence, immediately, in case of occurrence.
- d) Reception units: central units.
- e) The information received is passed on to Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil), Santa Fe (Argentina), Asunción (Paraguay) and Santa Cruz (Bolivia).
- f) This information is reciprocal, i.e., there is weekly communication of no occurrence or immediate communication of occurrence of FMD between countries.

Our country participates in continental information systems (FMD Pan-American Centre, vesicular diseases) and world-wide information systems (OIE, diseases of lists A and B). Every communication is channelled through the General Department of Livestock Services, from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries. The frequency of communication within the regional system has already been described. The frequency of the communications within the world-wide information system is as per the stipulations of the International Zoo-sanitary Code, version 2000, Part 1, Title 1.1, Chapter 1.1.3, Notification and Epidemiological Information, Article 1.1.3.3 regarding notification within 24 hours, weekly, monthly and annual, as corresponds.

4.2. Serological surveillance

In every case of suspicion of FMD, if bovine and ovine are in contact, both species are serologically studied. Furthermore, once FMD is dismissed, a differential diagnosis is made using appropriate laboratory procedures.

Those farms identified as "at higher risk" from the point of view of FMD have been visited directly and frequently. Besides, bovine and ovine have been studied from the sero-epidemiological point of view looking for possible infection or for antibodies to vaccine.

Periodical sero-epidemiological samples with statistical significance at the national level have been carried out and all have yielded negative results.

During the sanitary emergency that our country underwent from August to November 2000, the following studies were carried out, all yielding negative results with regard to viral activity: a) during the stage of maximum alert (re-introduction of FMD into the region): 10,672 serum samples; b) during the emergency stage (re-introduction of FMD into the country): 10,040 serum samples (3,333 of which from ovine). Total serum samples analysed: 20,712.

4.3. Livestock demographics and economics

Uruguay is characterised by a fairly homogeneous distribution of bovine and ovine species, co-farmed in extensive grazing. The average density is 0.54 bovine and 1.46 ovine per Ha.

The structure of the cattle population is as follows:

- cows: 39.6% (breeding cows: 34.4%, fattening cows: 5.2%)

- steer (including three categories, i.e., from 1 to 2 years, from 2 to 3 years and over 3 years): 24%
- heifers (from 1 to 2 years and from 2 to 3 years, not bred yet): 14.3%
- calves: 20.7%
- bulls: 1.4%

The distribution of bovine according to breed is as follows:

- British breeds (mainly Hereford and Aberdeen Angus): 70%
- Continental breeds and crosses (Holstein, Norman): 30%

Zebu-breeds have been introduced in the last decade, mainly Brahman and Nelore and are slowly extending through crossbreeding.

The national flock is composed as follows:

- Rams: 1.9%
- Breeding ewes: 48%
- Ewes for domestic consumption: 6.5%
- Wethers: 16.6%
- 2 to 4 teeth ewes: 5.9%
- Milk toothed lambs: 18%
- Suckling lambs: 2.5%

Wethers and weaned lambs have lost importance within the flock, evidencing a tendency to increase mutton production and to decrease wool production.

With regard to breed structure, the stock is distributed as follows:

- Corriedale: 70%
- Ideal: 11%
- Australian Merino: 10%
- Merilin (Merino x Lincoln), Lincoln, Romney Marsh and crosses: 9%

The national distribution according to major cattle farming systems is shown in the maps included in Annex 10 (FMD Prevention-4.3. Livestock demographics and economics). This classification has been basic at the time of making an epidemiological characterisation of the country in relation to FMD. Strategies for the task have been set taking this characterisation into account.

4.4. Slaughter plants and marketing

(Annex 11- 4.5. Slaughter plants and marketing)

4.4.1. Slaughter

General considerations

As a general rule, every animal sent for slaughter must be properly identified and must arrive to the plant with a document guaranteeing its origin (guide of property and transit from DICOSE). Furthermore, it shall be inspected before and after slaughter. Each plant approved by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries has a service of veterinary inspection dependent from the Division of Animal Industry of the General Department of Livestock Services, with professional and technical staff.

Methodology

a. Control of documentation

The documents accompanying the herd arriving at the plant are controlled and all the information stated in the DICOSE guide is carefully verified.

Further, the carrier must produce a certificate proving that the truck has been washed and disinfected.

If there is any problem with the documentation, the animals are retained in the arrival pens until it has been solved.

b. Ante-mortem inspection

The animals are carefully inspected while resting, standing and moving. The veterinarian watches for the presence of any abnormality or sign of disease. Special attention is given to the standing position and walking gait, to the nutritional state, reaction to the environment, presence of excessive salivation or other visible mouth and foot lesions.

c. Post-mortem inspection

Hygienic slaughter has two main characteristics: the veterinary inspector at the slaughter floor receives the pen cards with all the information about the herd and keeps at every time the synchronisation between carcasses, heads and viscera.

With regard to FMD, special attention is given to the inspection of lips, tongue and feet (looking for vesicular lesions) and to the rumen, gastrointestinal tract and heart.

d. Use of the emergency slaughter plant

Slaughter plants approved for exportation, that slaughter 90% of the livestock in Uruguay, have an emergency slaughter plant that, if needed, can be used to slaughter animals in a totally independent way.

e. Truck cleaning and sanitation

After unloading the animals at the slaughter plant, trucks are washed and sanitised at the plant's truck washing facilities and a certificate is issued. If the plant has no such facilities, a transit permit is issued to go to a separate truck washing plant, officially approved by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries.

4.4.2. Marketing

Cattle are marketed in two ways: at public auctions (auctions-fairs) or directly between private persons. The first type of marketing is carried out at special facilities for marketing and auctioning, approved by the Division of Animal Health and is

controlled by official veterinarians and technicians from the Division, who check both documents and sanitary aspects. About 150 premises operate within the country.

4.5. Supervision by the Official Veterinary Services

The Official Sanitary Authority must give previous approval to operate to both slaughter plants and marketing-auctioning premises. Afterwards, the activity is inspected and controlled by official staff. There is an appropriate legal framework for this sanitary control over abattoirs and markets-auctions, which foresees sanctions to transgressors.

5. FMD PREVENTION

5.1. Regional co-ordination

Regional co-ordination is carried out through the Agreement of the River Plate Basin.

The Agreement follows the policy established by its maximum body, a Committee integrated by an authority of the Official Veterinary Services, a representative of the farmers' union from each country and the Director of the FMD Pan-American Centre. The Committee meets at ordinary sessions twice a year.

There is a Technical Group (GT) acting as an advisory body to the Committee, integrated by specialists from each member country and two (2) permanent consultants for the Agreement (a Co-ordinator and an Epidemiologist) who give permanent advice to the countries. This Technical Group meets regularly four (4) times a year (See Annex 3).

Besides, there is intense joint technical activity between the professionals within the region and smooth communications through the System of Information and Epidemiological Surveillance (see point 4.1.1.3).

During the III Extraordinary COSALFA (South-American Commission for the Fight against FMD) Meeting, last November 10th, some modifications to the Internal Regulation of the Eradication Committee and to the Internal Regulation of the Technical Group were proposed. An Addendum to the Agreement for International Technical Co-operation to include Chile, was also proposed. Up to date this country has only acted as observer.

Some other activities are planned, such as six audits to verify the activities of the National Eradication Programmes in priority areas of the countries of the agreement, as well as border inspections.

5.2. Import control

5.2.1. Policy and risk assessment

The General Department of Livestock Services has established a Committee for Risk Analysis to study the requests for import permit. This committee makes technical recommendations to approve or reject importation or transit through the national territory. It takes into account the international recommendations proposed by the OIE Zoo-sanitary International Code, and the agreements on zoo and phyto-sanitary measures of the WTO (principles of harmonisation, transparency, equivalence, risk evaluation, regionalisation of diseases), regional regulations for importation of animals and animal products approved by MERCOSUR (See Annex 11- 5. FMD Prevention, 5.2. Import control).

The resolutions on imports are based on a risk analysis, following guidelines and standards from international reference organisations.

5.2.2. Animals and products

If and when the importation is approved, the products are to enter into the country accompanied by an international zoo-sanitary certificate. Finally, the goods are inspected, as deemed appropriate by the sanitary authority, and taking into consideration the type of goods and their destination.

Periodically, the Official Veterinary Services pass resolutions indicating the border crossings through which the imported animals and animal products may enter the country.

Generally, livestock exports predominate over imports. The main imported products are pork and genetic materials (See Annex 11).

At the ports and airports of entry, seized materials and garbage are incinerated, under supervision of the Official Sanitary Authority.

5.3. Biological security

In this area our country has had a very severe policy, as stipulated in the legal framework, and has followed international recommendations.

Section 16 of Act N° 16,082, dated 18 October 1989, establishes: "The Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries shall control the biological security of private plants devoted to the production of vaccine against FMD, according to the conditions and requirements established by the regulations. As from the second stage of the control and eradication campaign, no private person shall be permitted to hold FMD virus."

Pursuant to this regulation, as from October 1991, the only laboratory that handled virus within the sub-urban area discontinued production of vaccine in its plant. As from March 1992, direct tests for approval of vaccine were discontinued (Pedal Generalisation Tests-PGP) and indirect methods began to be used.

Upon a request of the Veterinary Services, Dr. Jerry Callis acted as consultant on bio-security.

Also in 1992, a seminary on bio-security took place at the FMD Pan-American Centre, within the framework of the Agreement of the River Plate Basin. Dr. M. Sánchez Vizcaino plus two professionals from each country of the region participated

in this seminary. Basic rules for laboratories handling virus within the region were set, as well as a manual of procedures.

Since the beginning of the Second Stage of the FMD Eradication Programme (16 June 1994), whose objective is to maintain the condition of country free from the disease, the legislation stating that "no private person shall be permitted to hold FMD virus" was enforced. This stipulation was made extensive to the official laboratory. Therefore, any suspicious material is sent directly to the Regional Reference Centre (FMD Pan-American Centre). The procedures used guarantee a fast and effective remittal of materials and receipt of the results, making use of daily flights to Río de Janeiro.

5.4. Official Veterinary Service supervision

The Official Veterinary Services play a major role with regard to FMD prevention. Public and private institutions are always backing the services and collaborating with them. Other social actors related with livestock production, represented in CONAHSA and in the CODESAs also participate in technical decisions directed at avoiding re-introduction of FMD virus.

6. RESPONSE TO OUTBREAK

6.1. Policy (emergency, plans, funds)

Since 1972, procedures to respond to outbreaks and to carry out epidemiological investigation were established. In case of any suspicion of disease, the procedure was to collect information using an investigation protocol for outbreak investigation, approved by the Technical Committee of the River Plate Basin. This protocol includes inspection of animals, sending samples to the laboratory, epidemiological follow-up, information and registration in an information bank, national, regional and international communications.

On 16 June 1994 began the Second Stage of eradication stipulated in Act N°16,082. In case of outbreak of the disease, affected animals and their contacts are to be destroyed.

The Veterinary Services developed a **contingency plan** and the corresponding manuals. This plan involves other public institutions as well, in order to eliminate the outbreak as soon as possible (Annex 12- 6. Response to outbreak.)

The main measures established by the contingency plan are: declaration of National Sanitary Emergency, activation of the Emergency System, interdiction of the farm where the disease appears, as well as neighbouring farms and farms related from the epidemiological point of view, stamping out of affected animals and their direct contacts, assessment of the animals and goods destroyed and payment of compensation to the affected owners, zoonification of the affected area, control checkpoints and disinfection between the areas, banning of movement of animals

and livestock products, disinfection, serological monitoring, investigation and epidemiological follow-up.

The compensation fund amounted to over 12 million United States dollars before the re-introduction of FMD.

6.2. Epidemiological studies (origin, diffusion)

Since 1972, FMD outbreaks and suspected cases are protocolised, as already explained in 6.1. The acting veterinarian is obliged to make a hypothesis as to the origin of the disease. This information was essential to locate the disease within a time, space and species frame (the bovine species is fundamental), thus adapting total, mandatory and systematic vaccination periods for the bovine species, in order to reduce the incidence of the disease.

Since the country entered the Second Stage of the Eradication Programme, on 16 June 1994, with the objective of keeping the condition of country free from FMD, the strategy followed is to pay attention to every suspicion of the disease, to protocolise them and to carry out epidemiological and laboratory studies in order to establish a diagnosis.

Periodical sero-epidemiological samplings with statistical significance at a national level have been carried out in order to prove absence of viral activity.

As already mentioned, actions within the Contingency Plan aimed at verifying if the disease has extended are, for example, serological monitoring, investigation and epidemiological follow-up.

6.3. Brief comments on the actions taken in Uruguay at the time of re-introduction of FMD into the countries of the region and into the national territory.

6.3.1. Answer to the regional situation

As a consequence of the sanitary situation generated by FMD in Argentine and later on in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, since 23 August 2000, the Sanitary Authorities declared the State of Maximum Alert.

Preventive suspension of importation of animals and animal products that could act as vehicles for the FMD virus, from the affected countries.

Border control. The Ministry of National Defence was asked to give support to the control of frontier crossings, limiting the points of crossing, as was informed.

Alert of sanitary barriers. Geographical relocation, increase of inspecting personnel and disinfection of the vehicles entering into the country.

Vigilance of the farms located in police districts along the frontier. The farmers had to request permission from the Official Sanitary Authority before moving any animal.

Declaration of risk farms. These are those farms that are in contact (from the livestock point of view) with farms located in the affected countries.

Sero-epidemiological studies. Since that date, sero-epidemiological vigilance was carried out in slaughter plants that received cattle from frontier departments, throughout the country. This monitoring in slaughter plants included, up to 17 October, 7,369 serum samples. All yielded negative results for FMD (see map included in Annex 12). The absence of viral activity was proved through this active vigilance in cattle slaughter plants, as well as through a national random sampling plan with a confidence level of 95% and a critical prevalence of 0.1%, which included 3,303 sera sampled from 3,500 estimated ones. The sampling design included 260 farms randomly distributed throughout the country. Out of a total of 10,672 sera studied at a national level, no evidence of viral activity has been found up to this date. The laboratory method used by the Official Laboratory have been ELISA and agar gel diffusion.

6.3.2. Response to the national emergency

The disease was re-introduced into the Department of Artigas, 12th Police District, Locality Chiflero, Colonia Rivera, geographic co-ordinates L-08-18, next to the capital city of the department (city of Artigas). This is a densely populated area (a colony area), with a family type of farming. Farms are mainly devoted to dairy production for local consumption (not for exportation). The ovine population density is also high and there is production of other livestock and agricultural produces as well.

A. Measures adopted to eradicate the outbreak

1. **Activation of the National System of Sanitary Emergency (SINAESA).** On 24 October the SINAESA was activated at a local and national levels, in order to achieve eradication of the disease as soon as possible and with the least possible impact. The eradication operative was co-ordinated with other government institutions: Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, Ministry of Economy (Customs) and other organisations related to the General Department of Livestock Services, such as the Commission to keep the condition of country free from FMD, National Honorary Commission for Animal Health (CONAESA) and their departmental branches (CODESAs). Other institutions that took part in the emergency were the Departmental Government of Artigas (Municipality), as well as the Ministry of Public Health, the National Institute of Nutrition (Instituto Nacional de Alimentación-INDA) and the National Irrigation Programme (PRENADER), who helped to manage the Geographical Information System.

The stipulations of the 'General Emergency Plan for the Eradication of an Exotic Disease Outbreak' were followed.

2. **Regionalisation of the disease and interdiction of the movement of risk animals and products.** The disease was regionalised in relation with the rest of the country. The infected area was controlled within the Department of Artigas and all animal movement was immediately banned, as well as movement of products and by-products of animal origin or any livestock product that could act as a vehicle for the virus.

On the 24 October 2000 the Department of Artigas was isolated from the rest of the country and eight sanitary barriers were implemented and controlled with the support of the Ministry of National Defence.

3. **Zonification of the Department of Artigas.** On the 24 October 2000, three clearly limited zones (areas) were established within the department: one focal area (with a radius of 5 km from the centre, at the affected farm), with a surface of 8,300 hectares; one peri-focal area, measuring 20 km from the external limit of the focal area, with a surface of 103,615 hectares and a vigilance area, corresponding to the rest of the department. Finally, a free area (all the country except the Department of Artigas) was established.

The separation of the different areas (whose centre was the affected farm) was enforced through control and disinfection checkpoints, controlled by officials from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Police). The checkpoints were located at the entrance/exit of the focal area (six points), peri-focal area (10 points), and vigilance area (7 points).

A sanitary barrier under the control of the Ministry of National Defence was established in the Department of Artigas. The limit was set at the River Cuaró, in order to control the separation between an area that is considered to have always been free from the disease within the department of Artigas (outside the Cuaró) and the area under strict control.

4. **Stamping out.** On the 24 October 2000, even before the laboratory results were available, the order was given to start stamping out and destroying all susceptible species within the focal area.

On the 25 October 2000, all affected animals and their contacts within the focus were eliminated. The stamping out and destruction of animals susceptible to FMD within the focal area continued until the 31st day of October, when the operative came to an end.

As from 1st November, this area was defined as a "clearout zone or empty area from the sanitary point of view with regard to animals susceptible to FMD."

Until the sanitary authorities decide otherwise, only 'sentinel' animals have entered into this area. Any invading animal, of whatever species, is to be immediately stamped out, without payment of compensation. The Official Veterinary Service checks this area twice a day.

5. **Assessment and payment of compensation.** The Departmental Assessment Commissions became active and, after ending their task, on the 13th November, reported that the total sum to compensate for the animals and products destroyed amounted to over **US\$ 2,000,000.**
6. **Disinfection.** The focal area was rigorously disinfected and all animals were slaughtered and buried.
7. **Control of the movement of people, animals and products of animal and plant origin.** Until the 31st October 2000, no persons were allowed to exit the focal area, except through a sanitary checkpoint and after rigorous disinfection and control of personal belongings (no elements posing a risk could be carried).

This extreme measure is due to the fact that the area is very densely populated (colony area), with a family type of farming. Farms are mainly devoted to dairy production for local consumption (not for exportation). The ovine population density is also high and there is production of other livestock and agricultural produces as well.

8. **Use of "sentinel" animals.** Since 7 December 2000, sentinel animals (100 bovine and 10 swine) have been introduced into the high risk farms in order to detect any virus that could still exist in the environment. The animals are subjected to daily controls by the official services. So far the clinical examinations and temperature checks have been negative to FMD. This fact has been confirmed by negative serological results, carried out seven, 14 and 28 days after introduction of the animals.
9. **Other actions.** The support of the Ministry of Public Health was requested and the Medical Union of Artigas also collaborated in the solution of different problems generated during the critical initial phase of the outbreak control. A delicate psychological and social situation was generated as a consequence of the sanitary actions imposed.
10. **Viral typification.** On the 26th October, the disease was confirmed, through isolation of virus type 'O' at PANAFTOSA and the official laboratory also confirmed the virus type.

On 14 November 2000, PANAFOSA reported to the General Department of Livestock Services that the isolated virus corresponded to sub-type O₁.

From the moment the problem began within the region, the General Department of Livestock Services requested that the acting virus be identified by PANAFTOSA and also that samples be sent to the World Reference Laboratory, in Pirbright, United Kingdom.

11. **Information.** At 13:00 hours, on the 24th October, the Brazilian authorities specially posted in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, municipality of Quaraí, were informed about the sanitary situation. On the 25th October, a complete account of the situation was given and the focal area and other areas defined for its control (through GPS) were pinpointed. As from that date, sanitary follow-up meetings have been held. Up to this date, all operations have been carried out in co-ordination with Brazil. According to the information given by Brazilian authorities, no suspicious animals have been detected and a serological sampling is to be carried out within the area under their control. If there were no news, on the 22nd December, the sanitary measures within the affected area of Joiá, Brazil, were to be discontinued. The sentinel animals deployed in the area have evidenced no viral activity.

Since 24 October 2000, the international community was immediately informed, through the appropriate channels (Sanitary emergency and follow-up reports to OIE and to PANAFTOSA) about the clinical, epidemiological and pathological confirmation of FMD.

B. Measures adopted to determine the magnitude of the disease and to verify that there is no diffusion.

1. **Interdiction of farms which received cattle from the Department of Artigas before detection of the disease.** All farms that had received cattle from the Department of Artigas since 1st September to 23 October 2000 were interdicted. All 61 herds moved to other departments were investigated from the clinical, epidemiological and serological points of view by the official services, with negative results. A total of 5,186 bovine and 1,446 ovine were involved.
2. **Epidemiological inspection rounds.** From 24 October to 30 November 2000, three epidemiological inspection rounds were carried out within the peri-focal area, with no news from the sanitary point of view.

During the third epidemiological inspection round, carried out in the Department of Artigas since 11 November to 30 November 2000, all farmers holding bovines and ovine within an area of 20 km as from the outside limit of the clearout zone for animals susceptible to FMD (perifocal area) were counted and sampled. A total of 6,691 bovine and 3,333 ovine serum samples were taken and processed at the official laboratory, using ELISA test and agar gel diffusion, all yielding negative results.

3. **Reports of suspicious cases.** During the year 2000, a total of 42 suspicious cases of FMD have been reported and studied by the official services throughout the country, all with negative results. Of these, 17 were reported in the Department of Artigas between 24 October and 18 December 2000.
4. **Hypothesis on the origin of the outbreak.** The FMD outbreak detected on 24th October 2000 has been controlled and eradicated, without affecting the rest of the national territory. The hypothesis is that the virus entered into the country through illegal contaminated products that were eaten by pigs. These animals were raised for family consumption and were free to range around the farm identified as primary focal point, according to the epidemiological investigations carried out to this date.

The virus entered through the digestive tract and the pigs, acting as a sentinel species, replicated it and disseminated the disease to bovines in direct contact with them. Later, the bovines became ill and the epidemics began.

The first bovine affected was slaughtered on the 24th October to make a diagnosis. It evidenced an evolution of the disease of four or five days, and the feet vesicles had already ruptured. Samples taken on the 23rd and 24th October were sent to the Reference Regional Centre (FMD Pan-American Centre).

7. CONCLUSION

Uruguayan sanitary authorities are in a position to definitely state that the outbreak of FMD registered in this country, at the Department of Artigas, at a geographical point near the frontier with the Federal Republic of Brazil, State of Rio Grande do Sul, has been eradicated. It has not affected the rest of the country, which has maintained its condition as free from FMD, not practising vaccination.

Our country has the appropriate technical instruments and legal framework and the necessary human, material and financial resources to eliminate the contingency.

The system evidenced its capacity to contain and eradicate the disease at the Police District level, as epidemiological unit.

It is to be highlighted that detailed information has been given in the Initial Report and Follow-up Reports that Uruguay sent to OIE (See Annex 12).



MINISTERIO DE GANADERIA, AGRICULTURA Y PESCA

Unidad de Asuntos Internacionales

Constituyente 1476, 3er. Piso, Montevideo, Uruguay

Tel. (598 2)4026365 - 4026358, Fax (598 2) 4026331

E-mail: mgapuai@adinet.com.uy

5 January 2001

Dr. Bernard Vallat
DIRECTOR
Office International of Epizootics

Dear Dr. Vallat,

I am herein enclosing information to be evaluated by the Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and other epizootic diseases, in order to permit re-listing of Uruguay as a country free from FMD.

According to Chapter 2.1.1.6. of the International Zoosanitary Code, our country has fulfilled the conditions necessary to be recognised as free from FMD as from 25 January 2001, three months after the last case detected. Stamping out has been applied and serological surveillance carried out.

Taking these factors into account and pursuant to Resolutions XVII of the 65th General Session, delegating to the Commission for FMD and other Epizootic Diseases the power to grant back the qualification as country free from FMD, I herein kindly request from you to take the necessary steps to make this possible.

Hoping for a favourable decision, I am ready to forward any information that you may deem necessary.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, I remain yours most faithfully,

Dr. Carlos A. Correa
Delegate from Uruguay before OIE

REPORT - DRAFT

OIE MISSION TO URUGUAY FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION

DECEMBER 7, 2000

1. Summary of Events

On 23/10/00, after notification on the previous day, Uruguay's Official Veterinary Services confirmed by clinico-epidemiological diagnosis the occurrence of foot and mouth disease in one livestock establishment in the Department of Artigas, Administrative Division 12, some two kilometres from the Cuareim River bordering with the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and five kilometres from the city of Artigas. The origin of the outbreak was found to be in an establishment with 64 cattle and 11 pigs and it had probably started on 15/10/00 by first infecting the pigs. The clinical diagnosis was confirmed by the PANAFTOSA laboratory on 28/10/00 as type "O" virus, later sub typed as O1. The disease was subsequently confirmed in another two adjacent establishments, involving a total population of 432 susceptible animals, of which 40 fell sick and 10 pigs died. Prior to the confirmation of foot and mouth disease, a National Alert had been declared on 24/08/00, with prevention measures in border areas, on account of the Regional Emergency due to the situation in Argentina and Brazil. In the Artigas emergency, the national animal health emergency system (*Sistema Nacional de Emergencia Sanitaria Animal (SINAESA)*) was initiated, and the Operational Command was established in the 10th Military Cavalry Regiment, situated on the outskirts of the city of Artigas. The reference used for the outbreak eradication activities was the O.I.E. International Animal Health Code, the PANAFTOSA - Cuenca del Plata manual of procedures for eradicating outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (*Manual de Procedimientos para Erradicación de Foco de Fiebre Aftosa*) and Uruguay's health regulations. In view of its status as an FMD-free country without vaccination, the strategy adopted was to stamp out all of the animals from the focal zone and the zoning area of the department of Artigas - which was quarantined - isolating it from the rest of the country. The stamping out operation in the affected zone started on 24/10 and ended on 31/10, with a total of 20,406 animals being killed. All of the animals' owners were given compensation from the M.G.A.P. compensation fund on 08/11, for a total amount of US\$ 2,090,090. The measures were complemented by serological clinical inspections of the perifocal area and the introduction of sentinel animals into the affected area, a task that is currently under implementation. 9,643 samples from the Department of Artigas were processed in Uruguay's Official Laboratory, DILAVE "Miguel C. Rubino", using indirect tests to detect viral activity: the ELISA kit for antibodies to structural proteins from PANAFTOSA and, as complementary tests, the Pirbright ELISA and the United Biomedical Inc ELISA developed in Plum Island, for non-structural proteins, up to December 7th, 2000.

INTRODUCTION

The mission was established to clarify the foot-and-mouth-disease (FMD) situation in URUGUAY following the detection of an FMD outbreak in Artigas bordering with the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

The mission team consisted of:

Prof. Dr. Ueli Kihm, Director of the Federal Veterinary Office and Delegate to the OIE for Switzerland

Dr. Francisco Muzio, PANAFTOSA

Mission Terms of Reference:

1. To evaluate the field situation in the department of Artigas regarding freedom from FMD.
2. To evaluate the surveillance systems and measures taken at the border to Brazil/Argentina.
3. To make proposals to the OIE's FMD and Other Epizootics Commission regarding the classification of Uruguay as a FMD free country without vaccination.

The mission took place at December 7 and was accompanied by members of the Uruguayan animal health service.

The mission's findings are reported below according to the following headings:

1. **Summary of Events**
2. **Outbreak Information and Legal Regulatory Framework**
3. **Surveillance Plan and Diagnostic tests**
4. **Conclusions**
5. **Recommendations**

Mission team members are grateful to the members of the Uruguayan animal health service for their openness and complete cooperation during the mission team's investigation.

2. **INFORMATION ON THE OUTBREAK AND LEGAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

4. Conclusions:

- 4.1.** The mission concluded that the emergency operation implemented by Uruguay has been timely and efficient in eradicating the Artigas foot and mouth disease outbreak.
- 4.2.** These conclusions are based on: a) early detection of the problem, the speed with which the health measures were implemented and the scale of the stamping out procedures; b) the time that had elapsed since the last animal was slaughtered without any new cases of the disease having been detected - 36 days by the date of the visit to the zone; c) the failure to detect any evidence of viral activity, either in the samples obtained in the three inspection rounds carried out in the perifocal area, totalling 9,643 animals, 6,294 cattle, 3,333 sheep, eight pigs and eight goats, or in the sera of 397 cattle that had left the Department of Artigas prior to the outbreak of the disease.
- 4.3.** The immediate availability of funds for compensation, which was valued for an adequate amount, led to an efficient and transparent process of depopulation of the affected zone. The coordination of the different institutions taking part in the operations was also appropriate for the emergency.
- 4.4.** The result of the sentinelization process, currently under execution, will be the final factor in the evaluation to determine whether any viral activity has indeed been eliminated.
- 4.5.** It is vital to obtain the results of genetic sequencing and antigenic characterization of the isolated virus, as well as those of other "O" virus strains isolated in the region, in order to be able to make progress in clarifying the origin of the outbreak.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** It is recommended that the FMD and Other Epizootics Commission adopts Uruguay as FMD free without vaccination following the rules in the Code Article 2.1.1.6 Provided that all parameters remain negativ regarding FMD viral activity. In effect, the mission confirms that the clinical and serological surveillance system in place would detect viral activity if FMDV would still circulate.
- 5.2** Considering the trans-border characteristics of FMD transmission from intense trade of live animals and products, it is recommended that regional cooperation on the political and technical level be strengthened, through the regional agreements already in place.
- 5.3** The health emergency situation experienced by the Southern Cone region of South America on account of the re-emergence of foot and mouth disease is attracting attention to the conditions that must be set in place in order to sustain the health situation of a region, zone or country that is internationally recognised as being free from the disease, especially with reference to the decision to change the status of FMD-free with vaccination to one without vaccination, so as to consolidate what has already been achieved and ensure that there is no risk of rapid backsliding, thereby jeopardising all epidemiologically-related zones or countries.
- 5.4** It is further recommended that the quality of Veterinary Services regarding animal health status be kept to a high priority and top standard. Panafosa together with national experts could coordinate a system of auditing on key aspects of the animal

health organisation and conditions of a zone or country.

ANNEX 2: OFFICIALS CONTACTED

**PARTICIPANTES DE LA REUNION EN ARTIGAS POR VISITA EVALUACIÓN
O.L.E.-PANAFTOSA**

NOMBRE	INSTITUCION	CARGO
Francisco Tuduri	M.T.O.P. Artigas	Jefe Vialidad
Dorval Rodríguez	ADUANA Artigas	Receptor
Dr. Juan Guruceaga	Ministerio de Defensa	Capitán
Ing. Agr. Eduardo Grasso	M. Ganad. Agricult. y Pesca	Asesor
Dr. José Menéndez	M.G.A.P. Saito	Médico Vet. Sub-Jefe
Dr. Hipólito Tapie	M.G.A.P.	Director Sanidad Animal
Dr. Nelson Donati	M.G.A.P. Artigas	Jefe Zonal Artigas
Dr. José Vargas	M.G.A.P.	Coordinador Región I
Dr. Luis Dias	M.G.A.P.	Director Dpto. Progr. Sanitarios
Arturo Sarachu	Intendencia Mpal. Artigas	Director Talleres
Ruben Benodio	Ministerio del Interior	Comisario Inspector
Mayor Ricardo Franchi	Ministerio de Defensa	Mayor
Dr. Carlos Correa	M.G.A.P.	Asesor
Dr. Martín Altuna	M.G.A.P. Artigas	Barreras Sanitarias
Dr. José Silveira	M.G.A.P. Artigas	Sub Receptor
Dr. Francisco Muzio	PANAFTOSA/OPS	Coordinador Proyecto Cuenca del Plata
Dr. Carlos Signorelli	Intendencia Mpal. Artigas	Intendente Municipal de Artigas

- 2.1. A private veterinarian reported suspicions of foot and mouth disease to the official veterinarian of Artigas on the night of 22/10. The official veterinarian attended to the suspicion on 23/10 and put a ban on the establishment, requesting the attendance of the Head of Health Programmes from the Animal Health Division.
- 2.2. The Head of Health Programmes arrived in the zone on 24/10 and made a clinical, epidemiological and anatomopathological diagnosis of foot and mouth disease. This diagnosis was conducted on bovines from the establishment, but it emerged from the epidemiological investigation that the first animals to have been affected were the pigs, amongst which 10 piglets had died suddenly the previous week and foot lesions had appeared in one sow and one of the surviving piglets. In view of this situation, the emergency system was initiated in the Department and it was decided to establish the base of operations in the 10th Cavalry Regiment of the National Army, situated on the outskirts of the city of Artigas. It was arranged that material should be sent to PANAFTOSA for diagnosis. A focal zone of five kilometres radius from the outbreak was established, together with a perifocal zone of 25 kilometres radius from the affected establishment, and surrounding this a surveillance zone. Provisions were made to shut off the Department of Artigas, banning the entry and departure of animals and animal products into and out of the rest of the country. Seven health control and disinfection posts were established in strategic places around the outbreak and the focal zone, manned by police and animal health officials, plus 10 posts around the edge of the perifocal zone, seven in the surveillance zone and eight on the border between the Department of Artigas and those of Salto and Rivera. In the latter two cases, support was provided by staff from the National Defence Ministry. During the evening hours, the directorate-general of livestock production services (*Dirección General de Servicios Ganaderos*) declared a State of National Emergency, which triggered the national animal health emergency system (*SINAESA*). The principal nation-wide measures included suspending the issue of export certificates and informing international and regional organisations, the countries of the region and the principal export markets of the situation. During the evening, local health authorities from Quarai - Brazil, coordinated by the Cuenca del Plata Project, arrived at the operational base, where they were informed in detail about the epidemiological situation and the measures taken by Uruguay's Veterinary Services.

By the end of the day, prior to valuation by the corresponding team, all of the susceptible animals from the establishment where the outbreak originated had already been slaughtered and buried, together with 11 pigs from an adjacent establishment. The materials were sent to PANAFTOSA for diagnosis.

- 2.3. On 25/10, when continuing the epidemiological investigation, sick animals were detected in two establishments bordering the affected establishment. The susceptible animals were inspected by examining the mouth and extremities, checking the temperature and taking blood samples, working from the periphery of the perifocal zone inwards. The valuation operation and the slaughter of the animals involved in the outbreaks were completed (322 cattle, 63 sheep and 47 pigs), on the same day.
- 2.4. On the 28th October, Uruguay's Official Laboratory, DiLAVE, confirmed the positive serological result of foot and mouth disease and, in the morning, the report on the material sent to PANAFTOSA confirmed as positive the type "O" virus. The Emergency Report was sent to the O.I.E.
- 2.6. On 31/10, the stamping out procedures were completed, including a total of 6,855 cattle, 12,239 sheep and 826 pigs. These were healthy contact animals, with no clinical signs and with negative serology. This measure was complemented by the slaughter of 53 cattle, 145 sheep and 188 pigs, on 01/11, from a family farm on the outskirts of the city of Artigas, since they were considered to be a risk population. The tasks of disinfecting the 27 ditches dug to bury the animals, as well as the farm

installations where the animals had been gathered for slaughter, commenced in the depopulation or cleanout area.

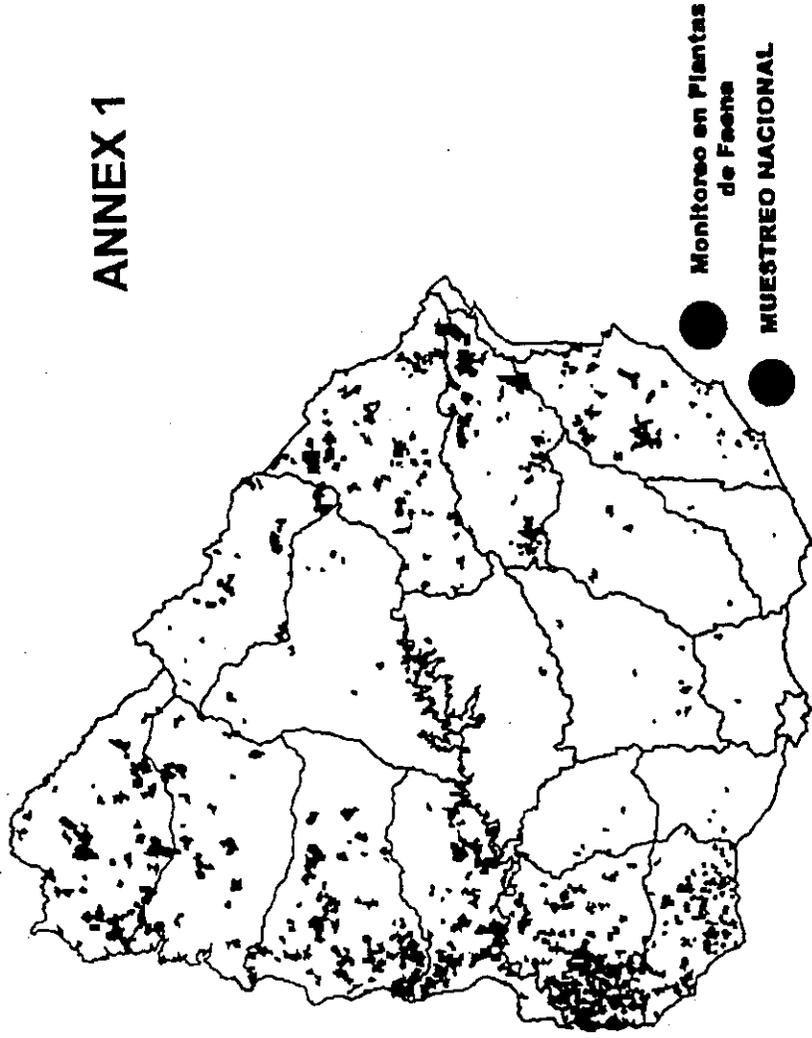
- 2.6. On 02/11, the first inspection round of animals in the perifocal area began, involving a total of 82 establishments, and the task of disinfecting the depopulated area continued. By then the number of people involved in the emergency operations had risen to 436.
- 2.7. On 05/11, the tasks of disinfecting the depopulated area and the first inspection round of the perifocal area were completed, involving 343 establishments, with 154,563 susceptible animals, from which 968 blood samples were extracted.
- 2.8. On 08/11, compensation payments to the owners of slaughtered animals and destroyed milk were completed, totalling US\$ 2,090,090.12.
- 2.9. On 11/11, the third inspection round of the perifocal area began, with a total of 1,772 blood samples being taken by 14/11, of which 1,191 were from cattle and 581 from sheep. On that date, the Animal Health Service attended to 17 suspicions of vesicular disease, all negative.
- 2.10. On 08/12, sentinel animals were introduced into the affected area: 100 cattle and 10 pigs.
- 2.11. The legal regulatory framework for the national measures taken in the Artigas foot and mouth disease emergency was based on Law number 16,082 of 18/10/89 on the "Control and Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease", and decrees number 244/90 of 30/05/90 and 281/994 of 07/06/94. This law and its regulatory decrees provided the legal framework for the health measures applied to eliminate the outbreak, as well as for the procedure of valuing and compensating the goods affected in this instance. This Law established the permanent compensation fund for foot and mouth disease and other exotic diseases (*Fondo permanente de Indemnización para Fiebre Aftosa y otras enfermedades exóticas*), created in 1990 by levying a 0.21% tax on all exports of meat, wool and dairy products. Collection of the tax was suspended on 01/03/99, when it reached 13 million US dollars, which was considered to be a sufficient amount. Decree number 281/994 regulated Uruguay's entry into the second FMD eradication phase, provided for in the law, for the status of FMD-free without vaccination. This decree created the national animal health emergency system (*Sistema Nacional de Emergencia Sanitaria Animal*), which includes the ministries of Livestock Production, the Interior, Defence, Economic Affairs, Transport and Public Works, together with one representative from the city council.

3. Surveillance System

- 3.1. A surveillance system along the border was already implemented after the alarm was raised in Argentina (end of August):
 - Sanitary barriers and patrols were strengthened.
 - Serological monitoring along the border was increased (Annex I).
- 3.2. The clinical surveillance in the focal and perifocal area was efficiently performed.
- 3.3. The targeted sampling of blood was concentrated in the risk areas. The serological tests used were the ELISAS for antibodies against the structural proteins which are regarded as the most sensitive ones.
- 3.4. The introduction of sentinel animals into the zone of outbreak was done about 1 month after the last animal was killed.

Vigilancia zoológica para prevención de la fiebre aftosa
Monitoreo de fronteras en establecimientos de faena, fecha de inicio: 16/2/00 con Argentina y 24/2/00 de
Río Grande del Sur. Muestreo Nacional iniciado el 07/09/2000.

ANNEX 1



A LA FECHA 19/09/00 SE HAN ENVIADO A ESTUDIO 5.451 MUESTRAS CORRESPONDIENTES A 908 TROPAS DE 27.888 ANIMALES EN MONITOREO SEROLOGICO A NIVEL DE PLANTAS DE FAENA, REALIZADO EN GANADOS PROVENIENTES DE DEPARTAMENTOS DE FRONTERA. EL MUESTREO NACIONAL LLEVA 2894 SUEROS CORRESPONDIENTES A 148 ESTABLECIMIENTOS.

Disease Information

26 January 2001

Vol. 14 - No. 4

Contents

<u>Foot and mouth disease in Swaziland: in the traditional buffer zone (Follow-up report No. 4)</u>
<u>Foot and mouth disease in Swaziland: in the traditionally free area</u>
<u>Foot and mouth disease in Israel</u>
<u>Rabbit haemorrhagic disease in Cuba</u>
<u>Foot and mouth disease in Uruguay: restoration of free status without vaccination</u>

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN URUGUAY Restoration of free status without vaccination

See also: 5 January 2001, 22 December 2000, 1 December 2000, 24 November 2000, 17 November 2000, 10 November 2000, 3 November 2000, 27 October 2000

Communication dated 25 January 2001 from the OIE Central Bureau:

The OIE Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission evaluated documentation concerning the eradication of foot and mouth disease, submitted by the Delegate of Uruguay, and, in accordance with Resolution No. XVII ("Restoration of recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries") adopted by the OIE International Committee during its 65th General Session (May 1997), recognised on 25 January 2001 that Uruguay has regained its previously recognised status of FMD free country where vaccination is not practised.

*

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List of Foot and Mouth Disease free countries
(January 2001)

RESOLUTION No. XII

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolutions XI and XII, 'Establishment of a list of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free countries where vaccination is not practised', and 'Procedure for the recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries',
2. During the 64th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII which asks that the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* a list of the countries or zones within national territories that fulfil the criteria of one of the FMD free categories described in Chapter 2.1.1. of the *International Animal Health Code*,
3. The Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee and has supported the recognition of the FMD free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,
4. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII which stated that the Delegates of Member Countries where countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as FMD free annually confirm by letter each November both their status and that the criteria by which their status was recognised remain the same,
5. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVII delegating to the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the International Animal Health Code,
6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate or incomplete information or

changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code*¹:

Argentina	Germany	New Zealand
Australia	Greece**	Norway
Austria	Haiti	Panama
Belgium	Honduras	Poland
Bulgaria	Hungary	Portugal
Canada	Iceland	Romania
Chile	Indonesia	Singapore
Costa Rica	Ireland	Slovakia
Croatia	Italy	Slovenia
Cuba	Japan**	Spain
Cyprus	Latvia	[Swaziland]*
Czech Rep.	Lithuania	Sweden
Denmark	Luxemburg	Switzerland
El Salvador	Madagascar	Ukraine
Estonia	Malta	United Kingdom
Finland	Mexico	United States of America
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Netherlands	Uruguay**
France	New Caledonia	Vanuatu

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Countries as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code*:

Botswana², Colombia³, Namibia⁴ and [South Africa⁵]⁺⁺.

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Country as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code*:

Brazil⁶.

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Countries as being FMD free countries where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code*¹:

Paraguay.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2000)

* [country] between brackets have their FMD free status suspended due to recent occurrence of disease

** Japan has been reinserted in this list on 26 September 2000 by decision of the FMD Commission in accordance with Resolution No XVII of the 65th General Session of the OIE International Committee. Greece and Uruguay have been reinserted in this list on 25 January 2001 by decision of the FMD Commission in accordance with Resolution No XVII of the 65th General Session of the OIE International Committee.

(1) For information about the status of non-contiguous territories of Member Countries recognised as FMD free address enquiries to that country's Delegate or the Director General.

(2) Zone designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General on 26 August 1996 and 24 September 1997.

(3) Zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General on 25 November 1995 (Area I - Northwest region of Choco Department) and 3 April 1996.

(4) Zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General on 6 February 1997.

(5) Zone designated by the Delegate of South Africa in documents addressed to the Director General on 3 May and 18 December 1995.

(6) Zone designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General on 17 September 1997 and 19 December 1997, comprising the states of Rio Grande do Sul⁽⁺⁾ and Santa Catarina. New

zone designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General on 13 December 1999, comprising the states of Paraná, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Goiás, Mato Grosso and Federal District of Brazil.

(+) This zone has its FMD free status suspended due to recent occurrence of disease.

(++) The South Africa free zone has its FMD free status suspended due to recent occurrence of disease



REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK SERVICES

REPORT ON THE SITUATION ON

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

MONTEVIDEO, JANUARY 2001

ANEXO 6

2.- SISTEMA VETERINARIO

2.1. SERVICIOS OFICIALES

ORGANIGRAMA DE LA DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE SERVICIOS GANADEROS
ORGANIGRAMA DE LA DIVISIÓN LABORATORIOS VETERINARIOS
ORGANIGRAMA DE LA DIVISIÓN SANIDAD ANIMAL
ORGANIGRAMA DE LA DIVISIÓN INDUSTRIA ANIMAL
ORGANIGRAMA DE LA DIVISIÓN CONTRALOR DE SEMOVIENTES
MAPA DISTRIBUCIÓN GEOGRAFICA DE LA DIVISIÓN SANIDAD ANIMAL Y DE
LA DIVISIÓN LABORATORIOS
CUADRO CON RECURSOS HUMANOS Y MATERIALES
MAPA CON LA DISTRIBUCIÓN GEOGRÁFICA DE LOS RECURSOS HUMANOS
DE LA DIVISIÓN SANIDAD ANIMAL

the following sanitary actions were applied to consolidate the eradication: zonification of the country with isolation of the Department of Artigas, zonification of the Department (focal and peri-focal zones), payment of compensation for the eliminated goods, disinfection, control of movement of ~~animals~~ animals, products and by-products of animal origin, sanitary and control checkpoints, epidemiological follow up, seroepidemiological studies, use of sentinel animals and future repopulation.

A total of 10,040 samples of serum from susceptible animals were collected within the peri-focal area, of which 3,333 corresponded to ovine. All yielded negative results, thus proving absence of viral activity.

All these measures were promptly communicated to OIE and were published by that Office in the Sanitary Information of days 27 October, 3, 10, 17 and 24 November, 1st and 22 December 2000 and 5 January 2001.

3. No vaccination in country in past 12 months

(State here whether vaccination in the country is prohibited, since what date, and briefly describe how this is enforced)

Vaccination is prohibited in our country as from 16 June 1994, as well as possession of live or inactivated virus by public or private institutions. As a consequence of this prohibition, since that date the country has ceased to produce vaccine against FMD and laboratory procedures that pose any risk, for example, study of diagnostic materials suspected of FMD, are not carried out. Such material is sent to the regional reference centre (Pan-American Centre for FMD, CPFA). The Sanitary Authority may carry out epidemiological studies. If the results of these studies evidence the presence of vaccinated animals, the Official Veterinary Services are entitled to send such animals for mandatory slaughter to an abattoir or to slaughter them on the spot, if epidemiological circumstances make it necessary.

4. No entry of vaccinated animals into country since cessation of vaccination

(State date of prohibition of entry of vaccinated animals, and refer to method of enforcement under section on FMD prevention)

Entry of vaccinated animals is prohibited as from 16 June 1994. If animals vaccinated against FMD were to enter the country, transgressing zoo-sanitary importation regulations, the MGAP is empowered to seize and slaughter such animals at approved abattoirs and to destine them to domestic consumption. In case the epidemiological circumstances make it necessary, the MGAP may order the slaughter of the animals on the spot.

Department of Livestock Services. This Department is entitled to adopt the following sanitary measures: decree of risk farms, risk area, anticipated slaughter, payment of compensation, interdictions, slaughters, repopulating, control of cattle movement, epidemiological studies and any other measure deemed necessary in order to carry out its assigned tasks.

Furthermore, it establishes mandatory reporting of any suspicion of FMD or similar clinical pictures for livestock owners or holders, carriers of susceptible animals and veterinarians in general.

As from 16 June 1994, the country entered into the Second Stage. With the objective of keeping the status of country free from FMD without vaccination, several measures were taken as from that date:

- a) prohibition of vaccination throughout the national territory as from 16 June 1994;
- b) prohibition of possession of live virus by private organisations or agencies from the Executive Power;
- c) administrative seizure of vaccine against FMD still in the hands of distributors on 16 June 1994. Once the validity of the respective series expired, they were destroyed in the presence of the Sanitary Authority;
- d) creation of a committee for Risk Analysis for the study of importation of animals and products of animal origin, on the basis of the international recommendations established in the International Zoo-sanitary Code;
- e) creation of a System of Sanitary Barriers (phyto- and zoo-sanitary) in order to control the crossings at borders, ports and airports, as well as to avoid the informal introduction of animals, plants, products and by-products of animal and plant origin, in vehicles, shipments and travellers' personal luggage, through any means of transportation (aerial, land, sea or river);
- f) control of garbage dumping; prohibition of keeping susceptible animals near dumps and of using garbage for animal feed.
- g) Since 16 June 1994, no animals vaccinated against FMD are allowed to enter the country.
- h) Creation of a National System of Sanitary Emergency (Sistema Nacional de Emergencia Sanitaria-SINAESA) which will begin operating in case of an outbreak of FMD or any other exotic disease. Furthermore, its integration is established (Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, Ministry of Economy and Finances, through the National

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Please address concisely the following topics. National regulations laws and ~~the~~ Veterinary Service directives may be referred to and annexed as appropriate

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Total population of Uruguay is 3,163,663 (according to the 1996 Census), distributed in urban population (90.8%) and rural population (9.20%). The population density is 17.95 inhabitants per km² and 48% of the population are men, while 52% are women. The economically active population in the year 1996 was 45.5%, 14.8% of which corresponded to the primary sector, while 24.8% worked in the secondary sector and 63.3% in the tertiary sector. Other interesting demographic data are: life expectancy at birth is 74.32 years, gross mortality rate is 9.7 o/oo, alphabetisation rate is 96.9%, infant mortality rate is 14.5 o/oo.

The geographical space is dominated by gently rolling hills covered by grassland (average high is 116.70 m), with no geographical features of relevance, allowing for easy farming, transportation and movement of livestock.

The climate is temperate, moderately humid, without great variations between summer and winter, mainly due to the influence of the sea. The average summer temperature is 23°C, the autumn 18°C, the winter 11°C and the spring 17°C. The annual rain average is between 1,000 and 1,300 mm, with light seasonal variations. It rains less in summer than in winter.

The grassland ecosystem allows grazing throughout the year through for both bovine and ovine species. Hence the importance of the livestock sector for the country's economy, since from its origin as a nation, the economy has been based on the livestock sector, mainly on the production of meat and wool.

1.1. Regional framework

The countries of the sub-region of the Basin of the River Plate (Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay) and the Pan-American Centre for FMD (CPFA/OPS) identified the need to establish a regional programme as critical. They signed in 1987 the Agreement for the Control and Eradication of FMD in the Basin of the River Plate. This agreement came into action as from 1989. In 1992 Paraguay was annexed into the agreement, as well as Bolivia in 1998 (Annex 3. 1. Introduction. 1.1. Regional framework).

The geographical area of the Agreement includes at present: in Argentina, the Provinces of Salta and Jujuy, Misiones, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Formosa, Chaco, Santa Fe and the municipalities in the North of the Province of Buenos Aires that border with Entre Ríos; in Bolivia, the Department of Santa Cruz; in Brazil, the States of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná, and all the territory of Paraguay and Uruguay.

The first stage ended in 1993 and had the objective of achieving clinical absence of FMD within the region. This aim was attained within the time frame programmed.

As from the application of common strategies, a marked decrease in the incidence of FMD was attained and a major part of the area evidenced clinical absence of the disease.

Livestock produces (beef, mutton, milk, hides, pork) represent approximately 49.9% of GNP of the farming sector, while the remaining 50.1% corresponds to agricultural produces. Furthermore, within the livestock sector, products derived from extensive farming, such as meat and wool, are the most important with relation to their participation in the economy, while products derived from intensive farming, headed by dairy products, are still economically less important, although they are undergoing a dynamic surge.

In Uruguay, beef and mutton production are carried out under totally natural conditions. The production system used is based on grazing on natural pastures, with some complementation with implanted pastures and natural pastures improved with the introduction of legumes. During the agricultural year 1997/1998, the annual production was of 860 thousand tons of bovine meat on hoof, 126 thousand tons of ovine meat on hoof and 78.3 thousand tons of wool (on a dirty base).

The annual production of beef reaches on average 420 thousand tons, of which 270 to 250 thousand tons are exported, while the remaining 150 to 170 thousand tons are consumed domestically.

The average annual slaughter of bovine during the last two decades was slightly higher than 1.7 million heads, with the following composition: 52% steer, 43% cows and the remaining categories 5%.

Present export markets for Uruguayan meat are Brazil, European Union, Israel, Chile, United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, Canary Islands, Hong Kong, Singapore and Saudi Arabia, among others.

A high percentage of the exports is made of high quality de-boned cuts, which usually find very good receptivity at international markets.

The total ovine extraction is carried out through slaughter and exportation on hoof, and the annual average during the last years has been about 4 million heads. The average annual exportation of mutton is about 15 thousand tons of carcass weigh and the major markets of destination are the European Union, Brazil and Saudi Arabia. An important part of the exportations is made up by de-boned mutton, and the major buyer is the European Union.

Exportations of ovine on hoof, mainly wethers (males castrated at a very young age) have been traditionally destined to Middle East countries, with Saudi Arabia as the major buyer of quantities that have averaged 200 thousand heads for the last three years.

Since the mid '60s, the dairy industry has undergone a stage of very dynamic changes, mainly due to important technological changes, both at the farm and industrial levels. It differs drastically from cattle and sheep production, mainly dependant on natural pastures, in that dairy farming makes important use of artificial pastures, pasture improvement and grain supplementation in minimal amounts.

- c) As from 16 June 1994, the second stage began, with the adoption of sanitary actions whose objective is to keep the status of the country as free from FMD without vaccination. These sanitary actions of the second stage are the following:
- I) Prohibition of vaccination throughout the national territory as from 16 June 1994.
 - II) Prohibition of possession of live virus by private organisations or agencies.
 - III) Administrative seizure of vaccine against FMD still in the hands of distributors on 16 June 1994. Once the validity of the respective series expired, they were destroyed in the presence of the Sanitary Authority;
 - IV) Creation of a System of Sanitary Barriers (phyto- and zoo-sanitary) in order to control the crossings at borders, ports and airports, as well as to avoid the informal introduction of animals, plants, products and by-products of animal and plant origin, in vehicles, shipments and travellers' personal luggage, through any means of transportation (aerial, land, sea or river);
 - V) Control of garbage dumping; prohibition of keeping susceptible animals near dumps and of using garbage to feed animals.
 - VI) As from 16 June 1994, no animals vaccinated against FMD are allowed to enter into the country.
 - VII) Anticipated slaughter at abattoirs approved for internal consumption, or slaughter on the spot of the animals entering the country in violation of importation zoo-sanitary regulations.
 - VIII) Creation of a Permanent Compensation Fund for the eradication of FMD and other exotic diseases. It is created on the basis of a 0.21% tax on exportation of livestock products (beef, mutton, milk, wool, etc.). This tax was created by Act 16,082, dated 18 October 1989. Since its creation until it was suspended (1st March 1999) it accumulated over 12 million United States dollars. This quantity was estimated as enough to cover compensation in the worst case possible if FMD were to be re-introduced into the country and affected dairy animals of high genetic value. At present the DGSG is allowed to invest and deposit the takings of this Fund. The dividends accrued shall be used to cover operative expenses in case of an emergency. The same law of eradication of FMD from 1989 foresees that in case the resources of the fund are exhausted, it should be implemented again.
 - IX) Creation of an Appraisal Departmental Commission that will appraise the values for the corresponding compensations in case of destruction of animals, products and by-products or personal property. It is integrated by three members: a representative from the MGAP, a delegate from the farmers and a third neutral member elected by the Ministry and the farmers together.

execution of Sanitary Programmes and Campaigns and has 43 Local and Area offices throughout the national territory.

Division of Animal Industry:

General objective: to defend public health of national and foreign consumers, assuring that the industrial process yields a product fit and of high hygienic quality.

Division for the Control of Livestock Herds:

General objective: to control the herds, movements and identification of big farm animals (cattle, horses) and small farm animals (sheep, pigs and goats), as well as livestock produces.

2.3. Role of society, farmers, industry

There is active participation of farmers and veterinarians with private practices in the official sanitary campaigns. This participation has been given institutional form through the National Honorary Commission for Animal Health (Comisión Nacional Honoraria de Salud Animal [CONAHSA]) the Departmental Commissions for Animal Health (Comisiones Departamentales de Salud Animal [CODESA]), working in each department of the country. CONAHSA is integrated by the Director General of the Livestock Services, the Director of Animal Health, a delegate from the Uruguayan Veterinary Society and three delegates from the farmer unions (Rural Association of Uruguay [Asociación Rural del Uruguay], Rural Federation [Federación Rural] and Federated Agricultural Coops [Cooperativas Agrarias Federadas]).

The eighteen CODESAs work in co-ordination with CONAHSA and are integrated by an official veterinarian, a veterinarian from the departmental veterinary centre and three farmers from the departmental unions.

2.3. Veterinary profession

In our country, the study of veterinary sciences began 95 years ago, first as a Veterinary School and, as from 1907, as the Veterinary Faculty. There is only one Veterinary Faculty, which is part of the state controlled University of the Republic.

There are 3,700 veterinarians in the country. Thirty-two hundred work as private practitioners, in coops, companies for technical assistance, agricultural industries, farmers' groups and other organisations, while 500 veterinarians work for the government.

3. FMD ERADICATION

3.1. History

Act N° 12,938, dated 9 November 1961, established that the fight against FMD was to be mandatory throughout the national territory. As from 1st March 1968, with the creation of the Bureau for the Fight against FMD, with the task of conducting and orienting the sanitary campaign for the control of the disease, the first organised actions to fight against FMD started to develop.

4. A strategy of routes of vaccination was adopted. This strategy established a date to begin the vaccination in each farm, and permitted better control and assessing of the vaccination.
5. ~~Priority~~ Priority was given to zones of higher risk, taking into account epidemiological characterisation. This strategic re-formulation was first applied in two pilot areas in the departments of Rivera and Soriano-Flores, characterised by the seasonal permanence of the disease during the last years, in order to evaluate the possibility of applying it throughout the country, specially in the areas and farms at higher risk.
6. A strategy aimed at reducing the risks of FMD outbreaks in the farms at higher risk was enforced. Historical behaviour of the disease, productive characteristics and vaccination background were taken into account to choose the farms. In order to more effectively control the vaccination, and acting in co-ordination with the CODESAs, a certification issued by a veterinarian was requested from the owners of the high-risk farms.
7. The livestock sector was given active participation in the activities of the programme. This participation was carried out through the national and departmental animal health commissions.
8. Co-ordinated and integrated activities with the neighbouring countries were carried out.
9. All the official staff, private veterinarians and farmers were trained, with the objective of eradication.
10. Bio-security was adjusted, both at the private and official levels, in order to adapt to the new epidemiological situation of absence of the disease.

3.2. Strategy

On 16 June 1994, the country entered the second stage of the Programme for Eradication of the disease as a country free from FMD without vaccination. New strategies were adopted, as follows:

1. Prohibition to hold virus for both the laboratories that manufactured vaccines and the official laboratory (Bureau of Veterinary Laboratories "Miguel C. Rubino").
Vaccine production was discontinued, through prohibition of vaccination of bovines as from 16 June 1994.
2. The Risk Analysis Committee was made official, as an advisory body to the General Department of Livestock Services. Its task is to suggest giving or denying authorisation to the importation of animals, animal products and by-products. The parameters to be taken into account by the Committee are those recommended by the International Zoo-sanitary Code, i.e., likeness of the sanitary status, prohibition of importation of animals vaccinated against FMD.
3. The sanitary barriers in force at ports, international airports, border crossings, postal customs and in-land customs were adjusted, as a preventive measure to avoid the re-introduction of the disease. In this way, the risk of informally

Uruguay has signed an agreement with the FMD Pan-American Centre (CPFA) to keep mono-valent FMD vaccine in a bank (approximately 300,000 doses) to be used only in case that the disease be re-introduced in such way that it required ring-vaccination in order to stop the spread.

3.4. Organisation

The relevant aspects related with the organisation of the programme were already mentioned in the chapter Veterinary System – Official Veterinary Services (Annex 6).

3.5. Execution

The Official Veterinary Services have been in charge of the execution of the Sanitary Programme for the Eradication of FMD in Uruguay. Private veterinarians and farmers have also participated in the aspects related to the prevention of the disease and reporting the disease and other like clinical cases. Furthermore, they collaborate and participate in the CODESAs and CONAHSA and in the Departmental Assessing Commissions. As in the case of other public and private organisations, the Sanitary Authority may require their co-operation.

3.6. Animal Identification – movement

The stock of bovine, ovine, equine and swine, as well as the movement of animals is controlled by the Division for the Control of Livestock Herds (DICOSE). This organisation is part of the Livestock Services. Every livestock holder must be registered with this Division and must make an affidavit (Annex 7-Eradication of FMD, 3.6. Animal identification-movement), which has to be up-dated annually, on the 30th June of each year.

Any animals moving with any destination must be accompanied by a document, the guide of property and transit, identifying the origin and destination of the animals (Department, Police District, DICOSE number of the farmer, identification of the animals, number, etc.) This guide of property and transit must always bear the stamp of the police station.

In case a situation of sanitary emergency be declared, the Official Veterinary Services must give authorisation before any animals are moved.

In Uruguay, the ownership of cattle is presumed through a firebrand, state owned. This brand is unique and is never repeated in the country. The state concedes the use of each brand to a farmer for a 10 years term. Before the expiration of the term, the farmer must re-new the concession. Sheep are marked with a special cut in the ears. Individual identification is used only in the case of pedigree animals.

3.7. Official Veterinary Service supervision

The process of eradication of FMD, as described in this chapter, is supervised and carried out by the Official Veterinary Services, empowered by the legal framework already mentioned.

- c) Frequency: weekly, in case of no occurrence, immediately, in case of occurrence.
- d) Reception units: central units.
- e) ~~The~~ information received is passed on to Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil), Santa Fe (Argentine), Asunción (Paraguay) and Santa Cruz (Bolivia).
- f) This information is reciprocal, i.e., there is weekly communication of no occurrence or immediate communication of occurrence of FMD between countries.

Our country participates in continental information systems (FMD Pan-American Centre, vesicular diseases) and world-wide information systems (OIE, diseases of lists A and B). Every communication is channelled through the General Department of Livestock Services, from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries. The frequency of communication within the regional system has already been described. The frequency of the communications within the world-wide information system is as per the stipulations of the International Zoo-sanitary Code, version 2000, Part 1, Title 1.1, Chapter 1.1.3, Notification and Epidemiological Information, Article 1.1.3.3 regarding notification within 24 hours, weekly, monthly and annual, as corresponds.

4.2. Serological surveillance

In every case of suspicion of FMD, if bovine and ovine are in contact, both species are serologically studied. Furthermore, once FMD is dismissed, a differential diagnosis is made using appropriate laboratory procedures.

Those farms identified as "at higher risk" from the point of view of FMD have been visited directly and frequently. Besides, bovine and ovine have been studied from the sero-epidemiological point of view looking for possible infection or for antibodies to vaccine.

Periodical sero-epidemiological samples with statistical significance at the national level have been carried out and all have yielded negative results.

During the sanitary emergency that our country underwent from August to November 2000, the following studies were carried out, all yielding negative results with regard to viral activity: a) during the stage of maximum alert (re-introduction of FMD into the region): 10,672 serum samples; b) during the emergency stage (re-introduction of FMD into the country): 10,040 serum samples (3,333 of which from ovine). Total serum samples analysed: 20,712.

4.3. Livestock demographics and economics

Uruguay is characterised by a fairly homogeneous distribution of bovine and ovine species, co-farmed in extensive grazing. The average density is 0.54 bovine and 1.46 ovine per Ha.

The structure of the cattle population is as follows:

- cows: 39.6% (breeding cows: 34.4%, fattening cows: 5.2%)

As a general rule, every animal sent for slaughter must be properly identified and must arrive to the plant with a document guaranteeing its origin (guide of property and transit from DICOSE). Furthermore, it shall be inspected before and after slaughter. Each plant approved by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries has a service of veterinary inspection dependent from the Division of Animal Industry of the General Department of Livestock Services, with professional and technical staff.

Methodology

a. Control of documentation

The documents accompanying the herd arriving at the plant are controlled and all the information stated in the DICOSE guide is carefully verified.

Further, the carrier must produce a certificate proving that the truck has been washed and disinfected.

If there is any problem with the documentation, the animals are retained in the arrival pens until it has been solved.

b. Ante-mortem inspection

The animals are carefully inspected while resting, standing and moving. The veterinarian watches for the presence of any abnormality or sign of disease. Special attention is given to the standing position and walking gait, to the nutritional state, reaction to the environment, presence of excessive salivation or other visible mouth and foot lesions.

c. Post-mortem inspection

Hygienic slaughter has two main characteristics: the veterinary inspector at the slaughter floor receives the pen cards with all the information about the herd and keeps at every time the synchronisation between carcasses, heads and viscera.

With regard to FMD, special attention is given to the inspection of lips, tongue and feet (looking for vesicular lesions) and to the rumen, gastrointestinal tract and heart.

d. Use of the emergency slaughter plant

Slaughter plants approved for exportation, that slaughter 90% of the livestock in Uruguay, have an emergency slaughter plant that, if needed, can be used to slaughter animals in a totally independent way.

e. Truck cleaning and sanitation

After unloading the animals at the slaughter plant, trucks are washed and sanitised at the plant's truck washing facilities and a certificate is issued. If the plant has no such facilities, a transit permit is issued to go to a separate truck washing plant, officially approved by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries.

4.4.2. Marketing

Cattle are marketed in two ways: at public auctions (auctions-fairs) or directly between private persons. The first type of marketing is carried out at special facilities for marketing and auctioning, approved by the Division of Animal Health and is

The General Department of Livestock Services has established a Committee for Risk Analysis to study the requests for import permit. This committee makes technical recommendations to approve or reject importation or transit through the national territory. It takes into account the international recommendations proposed by the OIE zoo-sanitary International Code, and the agreements on zoo and phyto-sanitary measures of the WTO (principles of harmonisation, transparency, equivalence, risk evaluation, regionalisation of diseases), regional regulations for importation of animals and animal products approved by MERCOSUR (See Annex 11- 5. FMD Prevention, 5.2. Import control).

The resolutions on imports are based on a risk analysis, following guidelines and standards from international reference organisations.

5.2.2. Animals and products

If and when the importation is approved, the products are to enter into the country accompanied by an international zoo-sanitary certificate. Finally, the goods are inspected, as deemed appropriate by the sanitary authority, and taking into consideration the type of goods and their destination.

Periodically, the Official Veterinary Services pass resolutions indicating the border crossings through which the imported animals and animal products may enter the country.

Generally, livestock exports predominate over imports. The main imported products are pork and genetic materials (See Annex 11).

At the ports and airports of entry, seized materials and garbage are incinerated, under supervision of the Official Sanitary Authority.

5.3. Biological security

In this area our country has had a very severe policy, as stipulated in the legal framework, and has followed international recommendations.

Section 16 of Act N°16,082, dated 18 October 1989, establishes: "The Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries shall control the biological security of private plants devoted to the production of vaccine against FMD, according to the conditions and requirements established by the regulations. As from the second stage of the control and eradication campaign, no private person shall be permitted to hold FMD virus."

Pursuant to this regulation, as from October 1991, the only laboratory that handled virus within the sub-urban area discontinued production of vaccine in its plant. As from March 1992, direct tests for approval of vaccine were discontinued (Pedal Generalisation Tests-PGP) and indirect methods began to be used.

Upon a request of the Veterinary Services, Dr. Jerry Callis acted as consultant on bio-security.

Also in 1992, a seminary on bio-security took place at the FMD Pan-American Centre, within the framework of the Agreement of the River Plate Basin. Dr. M. Sánchez Vizcaíno plus two professionals from each country of the region participated

and livestock products, disinfection, serological monitoring, investigation and epidemiological follow-up.

The compensation fund amounted to over 12 million United States dollars before the re-introduction of FMD.

6.2. Epidemiological studies (origin, diffusion)

Since 1972, FMD outbreaks and suspected cases are protocolised, as already explained in 6.1. The acting veterinarian is obliged to make a hypothesis as to the origin of the disease. This information was essential to locate the disease within a time, space and species frame (the bovine species is fundamental), thus adapting total, mandatory and systematic vaccination periods for the bovine species, in order to reduce the incidence of the disease.

Since the country entered the Second Stage of the Eradication Programme, on 16 June 1994, with the objective of keeping the condition of country free from FMD, the strategy followed is to pay attention to every suspicion of the disease, to protocolise them and to carry out epidemiological and laboratory studies in order to establish a diagnosis.

Periodical sero-epidemiological samplings with statistical significance at a national level have been carried out in order to prove absence of viral activity.

As already mentioned, actions within the Contingency Plan aimed at verifying if the disease has extended are, for example, serological monitoring, investigation and epidemiological follow-up.

6.3. Brief comments on the actions taken in Uruguay at the time of re-introduction of FMD into the countries of the region and into the national territory.

6.3.1. Answer to the regional situation

As a consequence of the sanitary situation generated by FMD in Argentina and later on in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, since 23 August 2000, the Sanitary Authorities declared the State of Maximum Alert.

Preventive suspension of importation of animals and animal products that could act as vehicles for the FMD virus, from the affected countries.

Border control. The Ministry of National Defence was asked to give support to the control of frontier crossings, limiting the points of crossing, as was informed.

Alert of sanitary barriers. Geographical relocation, increase of inspecting personnel and disinfection of the vehicles entering into the country.

Vigilance of the farms located in police districts along the frontier. The farmers had to request permission from the Official Sanitary Authority before moving any animal.

Declaration of risk farms. These are those farms that are in contact (from the livestock point of view) with farms located in the affected countries.

On the 24 October 2000 the Department of Artigas was isolated from the rest of the country and eight sanitary barriers were implemented and controlled with the support of the Ministry of National Defence.

3. **Zonification of the Department of Artigas.** On the 24 October 2000, three clearly limited zones (areas) were established within the department: one focal area (with a radius of 5 km from the centre, at the affected farm), with a surface of 8,300 hectares; one peri-focal area, measuring 20 km from the external limit of the focal area, with a surface of 103,615 hectares and a vigilance area, corresponding to the rest of the department. Finally, a free area (all the country except the Department of Artigas) was established.

The separation of the different areas (whose centre was the affected farm) was enforced through control and disinfection checkpoints, controlled by officials from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Police). The checkpoints were located at the entrance/exit of the focal area (six points), peri-focal area (10 points), and vigilance area (7 points).

A sanitary barrier under the control of the Ministry of National Defence was established in the Department of Artigas. The limit was set at the River Cuaró, in order to control the separation between an area that is considered to have always been free from the disease within the department of Artigas (outside the Cuaró) and the area under strict control.

4. **Stamping out.** On the 24 October 2000, even before the laboratory results were available, the order was given to start stamping out and destroying all susceptible species within the focal area.

On the 25 October 2000, all affected animals and their contacts within the focus were eliminated. The stamping out and destruction of animals susceptible to FMD within the focal area continued until the 31st day of October, when the operative came to an end.

As from 1st November, this area was defined as a "clearout zone or empty area from the sanitary point of view with regard to animals susceptible to FMD."

Until the sanitary authorities decide otherwise, only 'sentinel' animals have entered into this area. Any invading animal, of whatever species, is to be immediately stamped out, without payment of compensation. The Official Veterinary Service checks this area twice a day.

5. **Assessment and payment of compensation.** The Departmental Assessment Commissions became active and, after ending their task, on the 13th November, reported that the total sum to compensate for the animals and products destroyed amounted to over **US\$ 2,000,000**.
6. **Disinfection.** The focal area was rigorously disinfected and all animals were slaughtered and buried.
7. **Control of the movement of people, animals and products of animal and plant origin.** Until the 31st October 2000, no persons were allowed to exit the focal area, except through a sanitary checkpoint and after rigorous disinfection and control of personal belongings (no elements posing a risk could be carried).

B. Measures adopted to determine the magnitude of the disease and to verify that there is no diffusion.

1. **Interdiction of farms which received cattle from the Department of Artigas before detection of the disease.** All farms that had received cattle from the Department of Artigas since 1st September to 23 October 2000 were interdicted. All 61 herds moved to other departments were investigated from the clinical, epidemiological and serological points of view by the official services, with negative results. A total of 5,186 bovine and 1,446 ovine were involved.
2. **Epidemiological inspection rounds.** From 24 October to 30 November 2000, three epidemiological inspection rounds were carried out within the peri-focal area, with no news from the sanitary point of view.

During the third epidemiological inspection round, carried out in the Department of Artigas since 11 November to 30 November 2000, all farmers holding bovines and ovine within an area of 20 km as from the outside limit of the clearout zone for animals susceptible to FMD (perifocal area) were counted and sampled. A total of 6,691 bovine and 3,333 ovine serum samples were taken and processed at the official laboratory, using ELISA test and agar gel diffusion, all yielding negative results.

3. **Reports of suspicious cases.** During the year 2000, a total of 42 suspicious cases of FMD have been reported and studied by the official services throughout the country, all with negative results. Of these, 17 were reported in the Department of Artigas between 24 October and 18 December 2000.
4. **Hypothesis on the origin of the outbreak.** The FMD outbreak detected on 24th October 2000 has been controlled and eradicated, without affecting the rest of the national territory. The hypothesis is that the virus entered into the country through illegal contaminated products that were eaten by pigs. These animals were raised for family consumption and were free to range around the farm identified as primary focal point, according to the epidemiological investigations carried out to this date.

The virus entered through the digestive tract and the pigs, acting as a sentinel species, replicated it and disseminated the disease to bovines in direct contact with them. Later, the bovines became ill and the epidemics began.

The first bovine affected was slaughtered on the 24th October to make a diagnosis. It evidenced an evolution of the disease of four or five days, and the feet vesicles had already ruptured. Samples taken on the 23rd and 24th October were sent to the Reference Regional Centre (FMD Pan-American Centre).

7. CONCLUSION

Uruguayan sanitary authorities are in a position to definitely state that the outbreak of FMD registered in this country, at the Department of Artigas, at a geographical point near the frontier with the Federal Republic of Brazil, State of Rio Grande do Sul, has been eradicated. It has not affected the rest of the country, which has maintained its condition as free from FMD, not practising vaccination.



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5 January 2001

Dr. Bernard Vallat
DIRECTOR
Office International of Epizootics

Dear Dr. Vallat,

I am herein enclosing information to be evaluated by the Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and other epizootic diseases, in order to permit re-listing of Uruguay as a country free from FMD.

According to Chapter 2.1.1.6. of the International Zoosanitary Code, our country has fulfilled the conditions necessary to be recognised as free from FMD as from 25 January 2001, three months after the last case detected. Stamping out has been applied and serological surveillance carried out.

Taking these factors into account and pursuant to Resolutions XVII of the 65th General Session, delegating to the Commission for FMD and other Epizootic Diseases the power to grant back the qualification as country free from FMD, I herein kindly request from you to take the necessary steps to make this possible.

Hoping for a favourable decision, I am ready to forward any information that you may deem necessary.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, I remain yours most faithfully,

Dr. Carlos A. Correa
Delegate from Uruguay before OIE

INTRODUCTION

The mission was established to clarify the foot-and-mouth-disease (FMD) situation in ~~URUGUAY~~ following the detection of an FMD outbreak in Artigas bordering with the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

The mission team consisted of:

Prof. Dr. Ueli Kihm, Director of the Federal Veterinary Office and Delegate to the OIE for Switzerland

Dr. Francisco Muzio, PANAFTOSA

Mission Terms of Reference:

1. To evaluate the field situation in the department of Artigas regarding freedom from FMD.
2. To evaluate the surveillance systems and measures taken at the border to Brazil/Argentina.
3. To make proposals to the OIE's FMD and Other Epizootics Commission regarding the classification of Uruguay as a FMD free country without vaccination.

The mission took place at December 7 and was accompanied by members of the Uruguayan animal health service.

The mission's findings are reported below according to the following headings:

1. Summary of Events
2. Outbreak Information and Legal Regulatory Framework
3. Surveillance Plan and Diagnostic tests
4. Conclusions
5. Recommendations

Mission team members are grateful to the members of the Uruguayan animal health service for their openness and complete cooperation during the mission team's investigation.

2. INFORMATION ON THE OUTBREAK AND LEGAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

health organisation and conditions of a zone or country.

ANNEX 2: OFFICIALS CONTACTED

PARTICIPANTES DE LA REUNION EN ARTIGAS POR VISITA EVALUACIÓN
O.L.E.-PANAFTOSA

NOMBRE	INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO
Francisco Tuduri	M.T.O.P. Artigas	Jefe Validad
Dorval Rodríguez	ADUANA Artigas	Receptor
Dr. Juan Guruceaga	Ministerio de Defensa	Capitán
Ing. Agr. Eduardo Grasso	M. Ganad. Agricult. y Pesca	Asesor
Dr. José Menéndez	M.G.A.P. Salto	Médico Vet. Sub-Jefe
Dr. Hipólito Tapie	M.G.A.P.	Director Sanidad Animal
Dr. Nelson Donati	M.G.A.P. Artigas	Jefe Zonal Artigas
Dr. José Vargas	M.G.A.P.	Coordinador Región I
Dr. Luis Dias	M.G.A.P.	Director Dpto. Progr. Sanitarios
Arturo Sarachu	Intendencia Mpal. Artigas	Director Talleres
Ruben Benodio	Ministerio del Interior	Comisario Inspector
Mayor Richardo Franchi	Ministerio de Defensa	Mayor
Dr. Carlos Correa	M.G.A.P.	Asesor
Dr. Martín Altuna	M.G.A.P. Artigas	Barreras Sanitarias
Dr. José Silveira	M.G.A.P. Artigas	Sub Receptor
Dr. Francisco Muzio	PANAFTOSA/OPS	Coordinador Proyecto Cuenca del Plata
Dr. Carlos Signorelli	Intendencia Mpal. Artigas	Intendente Municipal de Artigas

4.1.2001

installations where the animals had been gathered for slaughter, commenced in the depopulation or cleanout area.

- 2.6. On 02/11, the first inspection round of animals in the perifocal area began, involving a total of 62 establishments, and the task of disinfecting the depopulated area continued. By then the number of people involved in the emergency operations had risen to 436.
- 2.7. On 05/11, the tasks of disinfecting the depopulated area and the first inspection round of the perifocal area were completed, involving 343 establishments, with 154,563 susceptible animals, from which 968 blood samples were extracted.
- 2.8. On 08/11, compensation payments to the owners of slaughtered animals and destroyed milk were completed, totalling US\$ 2,090,090.12.
- 2.9. On 11/11, the third inspection round of the perifocal area began, with a total of 1,772 blood samples being taken by 14/11, of which 1,191 were from cattle and 581 from sheep. On that date, the Animal Health Service attended to 17 suspicions of vesicular disease, all negative.
- 2.10. On 08/12, sentinel animals were introduced into the affected area: 100 cattle and 10 pigs.
- 2.11. The legal regulatory framework for the national measures taken in the Artigas foot and mouth disease emergency was based on Law number 16,082 of 18/10/89 on the "Control and Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease", and decrees number 244/90 of 30/05/90 and 261/994 of 07/06/94. This law and its regulatory decrees provided the legal framework for the health measures applied to eliminate the outbreak, as well as for the procedure of valuing and compensating the goods affected in this instance. This Law established the permanent compensation fund for foot and mouth disease and other exotic diseases (*Fondo permanente de Indemnización para Fiebre Aftosa y otras enfermedades exóticas*), created in 1990 by levying a 0.21% tax on all exports of meat, wool and dairy products. Collection of the tax was suspended on 01/03/99, when it reached 13 million US dollars, which was considered to be a sufficient amount. Decree number 261/994 regulated Uruguay's entry into the second FMD eradication phase, provided for in the law, for the status of FMD-free without vaccination. This decree created the national animal health emergency system (*Sistema Nacional de Emergencia Sanitaria Animal*), which includes the ministries of Livestock Production, the Interior, Defence, Economic Affairs, Transport and Public Works, together with one representative from the city council.

3. Surveillance System

- 3.1. A surveillance system along the border was already implemented after the alarm was raised in Argentina (end of August):
- Sanitary barriers and patrols were strengthened.
 - Serological monitoring along the border was increased (Annex I).
- 3.2. The clinical surveillance in the focal and perifocal area was efficiently performed.
- 3.3. The targeted sampling of blood was concentrated in the risk areas. The serological tests used were the ELISAS for antibodies against the structural proteins which are regarded as the most sensitive ones.
- 3.4. The introduction of sentinel animals into the zone of outbreak was done about 1 month after the last animal was killed.

Disease Information

26 January 2001

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Contents

<u>Foot and mouth disease in Swaziland: in the traditional buffer zone (Follow-up report No. 4)</u>
<u>Foot and mouth disease in Swaziland: in the traditionally free area</u>
<u>Foot and mouth disease in Israel</u>
<u>Rabbit haemorrhagic disease in Cuba</u>
<u>Foot and mouth disease in Uruguay: restoration of free status without vaccination</u>

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN URUGUAY Restoration of free status without vaccination

See also: 5 January 2001, 22 December 2000, 1 December 2000, 24 November 2000, 17 November 2000, 10 November 2000, 3 November 2000, 27 October 2000

Communication dated 25 January 2001 from the OIE Central Bureau:

The OIE Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission evaluated documentation concerning the eradication of foot and mouth disease, submitted by the Delegate of Uruguay, and, in accordance with Resolution No. XVII ("Restoration of recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries") adopted by the OIE International Committee during its 65th General Session (May 1997), recognised on 25 January 2001 that Uruguay has regained its previously recognised status of FMD free country where vaccination is not practised.

*

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changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code*¹:

Argentina	Germany	New Zealand
Australia	Greece**	Norway
Austria	Haiti	Panama
Belgium	Honduras	Poland
Bulgaria	Hungary	Portugal
Canada	Iceland	Romania
Chile	Indonesia	Singapore
Costa Rica	Ireland	Slovakia
Croatia	Italy	Slovenia
Cuba	Japan**	Spain
Cyprus	Latvia	[Swaziland]*
Czech Rep.	Lithuania	Sweden
Denmark	Luxemburg	Switzerland
El Salvador	Madagascar	Ukraine
Estonia	Malta	United Kingdom
Finland	Mexico	United States of America
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Netherlands	Uruguay**
France	New Caledonia	Vanuatu

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Countries as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code*:

Botswana², Colombia³, Namibia⁴ and [South Africa⁵]⁺⁺.

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Country as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code*:

Brazil⁶.

zone designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General on 13 December 1999, comprising the states of Paraná, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Goiás, Mato Grosso and Federal District of Brazil.

(+) This zone has its FMD free status suspended due to recent occurrence of disease.

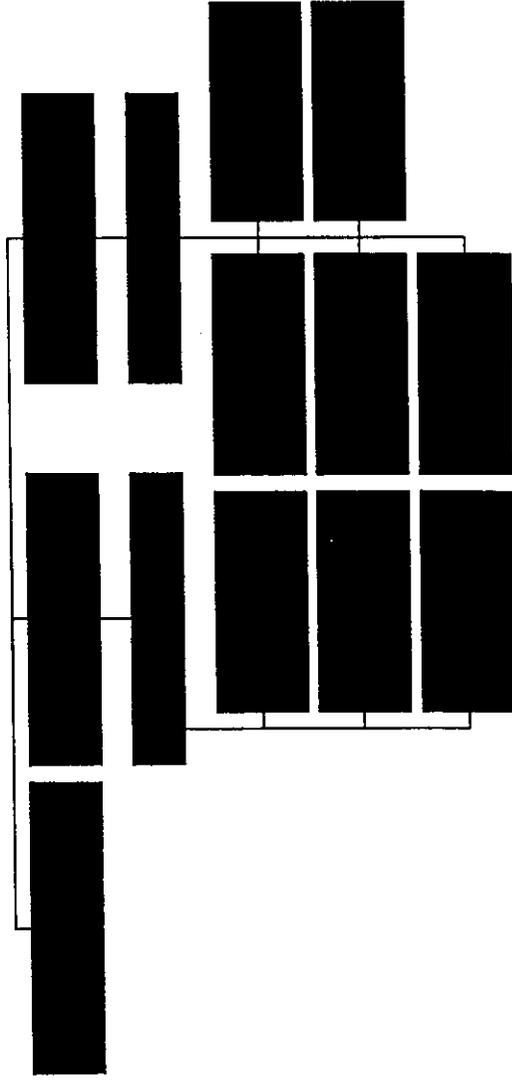
(++) The South Africa free zone has its FMD free status suspended due to recent occurrence of disease

61 SG/12/CS3B

**INFORME DE LA MISION PARA EVALUAR
LA CATEGORIA DE URUGUAY CON RESPECTO
A LA FIEBRE AFTOSA**

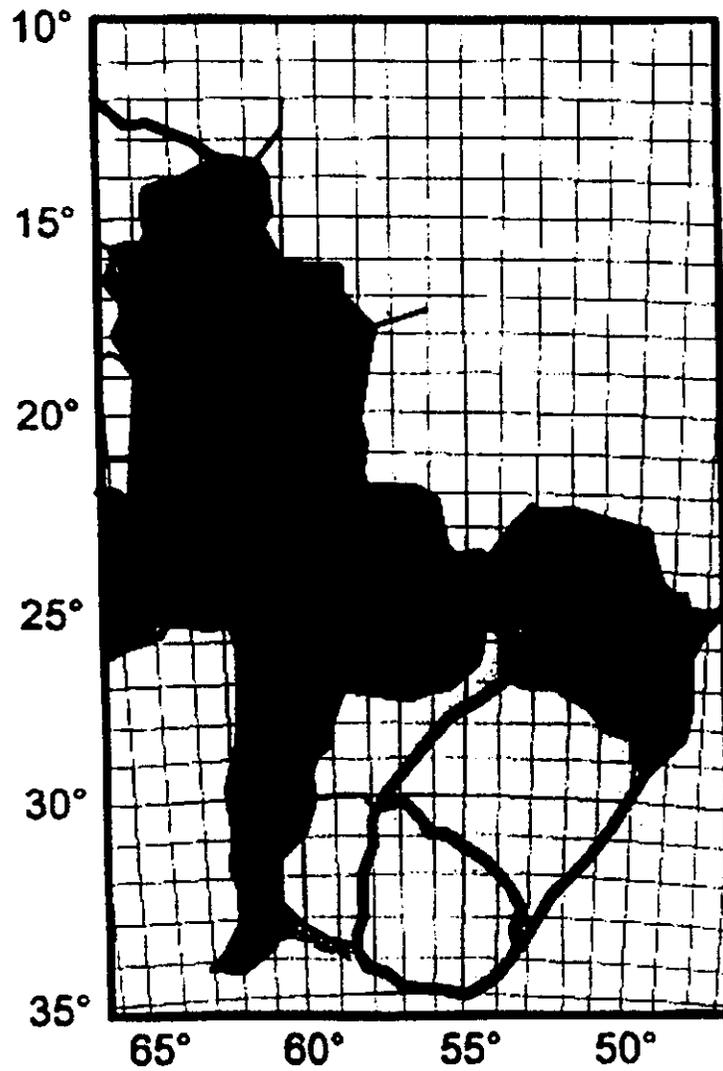
27 de marzo - 2 de abril de 1993

**ORGANIGRAMA DEL CONVENIO DE ERRADICACION DE LA
FIEBRE AFTOSA EN LA CUENCA DEL PLATA**



MAPA DEL AREA DE CONVENIO

PROYECTO CUENCA DEL PLATA
1998



- AREA INICIAL
- AREA INCORPORADA EN 1992
- AREA INCORPORADA EN 1994
- AREA INCORPORADA 1997
- AREA INCORPORADA 1998

CONVENIO DE COOPERACIÓN TÉCNICA INTERNACIONAL ENTRE ARGENTINA, BRASIL, URUGUAY Y LA ORGANIZACIÓN PANAMERICANA DE LA SALUD PARA LA ERRADICACIÓN DE LA FIEBRE AFTOSA EN LA CUENCA DEL RIO DE LA PLATA

El Gobierno de la República Argentina, representado en este acto por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca, que en adelante se denominará «la Argentina»;

El Gobierno de la República Federativa del Brasil, representado en este acto por el Ministerio de Agricultura, que en adelante se denominará «el Brasil»;

El Gobierno de la República Oriental del Uruguay, representado en este acto por el Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca, que en adelante se denominará «el Uruguay»; y

La Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), que en adelante se denominará «la OPS», representada por la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana, Oficina Regional de la Organización Mundial de la Salud;

Han convenido en suscribir el presente Convenio con el propósito de establecer las bases de un proyecto de cooperación técnica internacional para lograr la consolidación del control y la erradicación de la fiebre aftosa en el plazo de cinco (5) años en el área comprendida por las provincias de Entre Píos, Corrientes y Misiones en Argentina, el Estado de Rio Grande do Sul en Brasil y todo el territorio del Uruguay.

ARTICULO 1

Definiciones

1. La Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana (OSP) es el órgano administrativo de la OPS. En virtud del Acuerdo firmado entre la OPS y la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), el 24 de mayo de 1949, la OSP sirve asimismo como Oficina Regional de la OMS para el Hemisferio Occidental.

2. El Convenio entre el Gobierno del Brasil la OPS para el funcionamiento del Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa fue firmado el 27 de enero de 1951.

3. Se entiende en este Convenio por «cooperación técnica internacional», los servicios de asesores técnica, equipos, materiales, becas, fondos y otros medios de cooperación proporcionados en forma bilateral o multilateral por la OPS y por cualquier otra agencia internacional que participe en el proyecto.

ARTICULO II

1. Los Convenios Básicos firmados entre la Argentina, el Brasil y la OPS, respectivamente en 21 de agosto de 1951 y 20 de enero de 1983 y el firmado por el Uruguay el 7 de enero de 1952 con la OMS, servirán de base de las relaciones entre las partes signatarias y los artículos de este Convenio deberán interpretarse de conformidad con dichos Convenios Básicos.

2. Las bases técnicas y financieras para el presente Convenio están contenidas en los respectivos programas nacionales de control y erradicación de la fiebre aftosa que incluyen las fuentes de financiamiento específico.

3. El Convenio tendrá como referencia a la Comisión Sudamericana para la lucha contra la Fiebre Aftosa (CO SALFA), que fue reconocida por los Ministerios de Relaciones Exteriores de once países de América del Sur como Comisión Permanente Institucionalizada a Nivel Subregional y que tiene como función la coordinación, evaluación y seguimiento de las acciones de lucha antiaftosa en América del Sur.

4. Con la anuencia de todas las partes integrantes del Convenio se podrá gestionar y aceptar la colaboración de otros organismos internacionales de cooperación técnica y financiera.

ARTICULO III

Objetivos

1. La coordinación de la programación, ejecución y evaluación de las actividades de control y erradicación de la fiebre aftosa entre los servicios oficiales responsables de la Argentina, el Brasil y el Uruguay.

2. La capacitación técnica de los recursos humanos involucrados en el control y la erradicación de la fiebre aftosa en el área.

3. El asesoramiento directo en cuestiones vinculadas con la planificación y evaluación de los programas nacionales, la comunicación social, epidemiología, informática y análisis del impacto del proyecto sobre la pecuaria subregional.

4. La cooperación técnica con la investigación epidemiológica y la detección y eliminación precoz, de situación de emergencia, incluyendo la provisión oportuna de inmunógenos.

5. La comunicación inmediata, oportuna y completa de todos los aspectos relacionados con la conducta de enfermedad, materializándose a través de una intensa comunicación entre los países y autorizando al Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa (CPFA) a transmitir a cada país, cualquier evento epidemiológico que sea de importancia para el proyecto, para el uso exclusivo de los Servicios.

ARTICULO IV

d) un especialista en sistema de información e informática por el término de doce (12) meses renovables hasta un máximo de cuatro (4) años.

e) consultores de corto plazo en Economía, Cuarentenas, Desinfección, Comunicación Social, Seguridad Biológica, u otros de acuerdo con los fondos disponibles en ese rubro y con duración y oportunidad a ser determinadas por el Comité de erradicación.

1.2 El personal contratado actuará y se movilizará según las necesidades en todo el territorio que comprende el proyecto.

1.3 El personal de la OPS, particularmente el asignado al CPFA dará prioridad, dentro de su programación anual de actividades, respetando sus compromisos de cooperación técnica con los demás países de las Américas, al asesoramiento, orientación técnica y apoyo de referencia laboratorial necesarios para la ejecución satisfactoria del proyecto.

2. Subcontratos

La OPS tendrá el derecho de subcontratar, total o parcialmente, la cooperación internacional prevista en este Convenio, de acuerdo a los procedimientos de licitación establecidos en sus reglamentos financieros.

3. Becas

La OPS proporcionará becas para el adiestramiento de personal nacional de acuerdo con las necesidades establecidas en el Apéndice 2. Los contenidos y oportunidad del adiestramiento serán determinados por el Comité de Erradicación. Las becas se administrarán de acuerdo con las disposiciones que la OPS tiene establecidas para tal efecto y las solicitudes de becas deberán ser presentadas por el Representante del país ante el Comité de Erradicación.

4. Cursos, Seminarios y Reuniones

La OPS cooperará en la organización y financiamiento de las reuniones del Comité de Erradicación y del Grupo Técnico en los términos que se convengan entre las partes.

La OPS cooperará asimismo en la organización y apoyo docente a cursos nacionales o seminarios en materias relacionadas con el proyecto, a pedidos específicos de los Gobiernos, dentro de sus posibilidades presupuestarias y las del proyecto de cooperación técnica y las de los Servicios Veterinarios Nacionales.

5. Suministros, Equipos y Servicios

La OPS se compromete a suministrar los siguientes suministros, equipos y servicios que no excedan las provisiones presupuestarias establecidas para este rubro en el Apéndice 2 y de acuerdo con especificaciones a ser determinadas por la OPS y según los criterios del plan de trabajo:

*dos vehículos para uso del coordinador y del consultor epidemiológico, respectivamente

*tres (3) microcomputadoras y programas de computación de uso rutinario.

*200.000 dosis anuales de vacunas antiaftosa trivalente de adyuvante oleoso.

*diseños, impresos y materiales varios.

La OPS conservará el derecho a los suministros y equipos que proporcione para el proyecto, hasta el término de la cooperación internacional, fecha en la cual se dispondrá de ellos de conformidad con las normas y políticas de la OPS y las que sean convenidas entre ésta y el Comité de Erradicación.

ARTICULO IX

Evaluación

1. Los Gobiernos y la OPS asumirán conjuntamente, a través del Comité de Erradicación, la responsabilidad de la evaluación periódica del proyecto durante su instrumentación.
2. Los Gobiernos facilitarán medios de evaluación a la OPS cuando sea necesario, incluso el acceso a registros estadísticos y de otra índole, así como asistencia del personal de los servicios de estadística y otros servicios gubernamentales, y permitirán el uso de sus locales con este propósito.
3. El plan de trabajo y cualesquiera arreglos establecidos para su ejecución serán examinados y modificados por el Comité de Erradicación se considera necesario como resultado de la evaluación del Proyecto.
4. El Comité de Erradicación presentará en las reuniones de la COSALFA, la información sobre la ejecución y evolución del proyecto.
5. Los Gobiernos continuarán la evaluación del proyecto una vez terminado el período de cooperación internacional.

ARTICULO X Disposiciones Finales

1. Este Convenio entrará en vigor al ser firmado por las partes y permanecerá en efecto por el lapso de cinco (5) años. La ejecución de contratos de personal u otros compromisos de desembolso quedarán condicionados a la disponibilidad de los aportes respectivos de los Gobiernos.
 2. Este Convenio podrá ser modificado o prorrogado por acuerdo expreso de las partes. Los Gobiernos acuerdan promover la incorporación de Paraguay, otros países y/u otras regiones de los países participantes cuya ganadería está vinculada a la Cuenca del Río de la Plata.
 3. Este Convenio podrá ser cancelado unilateralmente por cualquiera de las partes, mediante aviso escrito a las otras partes. La cancelación tendrá efecto noventa (90) días después del recibo de dicho aviso.
 4. Las obligaciones que asumen las partes en este Convenio sobrevivirán la expiración a cancelación del mismo en la medida que sea necesaria para permitir la liquidación de cuentas entre las partes, la tramitación de asuntos relativos al personal del Proyecto, el cumplimiento de compromisos adquiridos y la salida del país del personal, fondos y haberes de la OPS.
 5. La OPS no será responsable si no puede cumplir total o parcialmente sus compromisos por razones de fuerza mayor, incluyendo guerras, desastres naturales, disturbios civiles, o industriales y cualquier otra causa que escape a la intervención de la OPS.
 6. Los Apéndices a este Convenio forman parte constitutiva del mismo.
- EN FE DE LO CUAL, los ministros habiendo sido debidamente autorizados para tal efecto, firman este Convenio en dos vías de igual tenor, en los idiomas español y portugués.
- Por el Gobierno de la República Argentina
Ing. Ernesto J. Figueras
Ministro de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca

Por el Gobierno de la República Federativa de Brasil
Señor Iris Rezende
Ministro de Agricultura

Por el Gobierno de la República Oriental del Uruguay
Ing. Agr. Pedro Bonino Garmendia
Ministro de Ganadería, Agricultura cultura y Pesca

Por la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)
Doctor Raúl Casas Olascoaga
Director del Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa

SIGUE ORGANIGRAMA DEL CONVENIO (VER HOJA 1 DE ESTE ANEXO)

Prefacio

En enero de 1993, la Comisión de la OIE para la fiebre aftosa y otras epizootias examinó una solicitud de Uruguay: para que se le reconozca oficialmente libre de fiebre aftosa con vacunación de acuerdo al Capítulo 2.1.1. del *Código Zoonosanitario Internacional de la OIE*. Tras considerar la documentación presentada, la OIE determinó que se deba enviar una misión a Uruguay para evitar la situación de la enfermedad.

Durante el período comprendido entre el 27 de marzo y el 2 de abril de 1993, una misión conformada por el ~~Dr.~~ U. Kihm de Suiza (Presidente), el Dr. V. Astudillo de PANAFOTSA en Brasil y el Dr. W. Sterritt de Canadá llevó a cabo la evaluación de la situación uruguaya. El Dr. R. Reichard, Jefe del departamento científico y técnico de la OIE acompañó la misión.

La evaluación se condujo de acuerdo a los criterios establecidos en el capítulo antes mencionado. El diario del viaje figura en el Anexo A.

1 Introducción

1.1.- Marco regional

Existe un programa de erradicación de la fiebre aftosa en la región de la Cuenca del Río de la Plata. Dicha región abarca el Sur del Brasil (Río Grande do Sul), la Mesopotamia argentina (Misiones, Corrientes y Entre Ríos), todo el territorio uruguayo y la región este del Paraguay. La coordinación del programa está a cargo del Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa (OPS/OMS) y su estrategia consiste en reducir la presencia del virus en áreas de cría y evitar su propagación a las áreas de engorde y producción lechera. Las acciones emprendidas han tenido continuidad política y administrativa lo que ha sido posible debido especialmente a la participación de productores ganaderos, veterinarios particulares y otros sectores.

Las operaciones se dirigen en forma descentralizada a partir de las unidades veterinarias locales, por lo que se ha logrado crear una zona de protección alrededor de Uruguay, país en el que se aplica la misma metodología.

Estos esfuerzos para erradicar la enfermedad en la zona externa así como los programas dedicados propios de Uruguay le han permitido eliminar las cepas de virus en el terreno y orientarse hacia la prevención.

Se está estudiando la implementación de una segunda fase del programa regional para 1994 - 1998, con el objeto de que Uruguay pueda ser incluido en el grupo de países libres de la fiebre aftosa sin vacunación.

1.2. Industria ganadera

El sector ganadero uruguayo es muy importante para la economía del país (exportaciones de carne, productos lácteos y lana). De allí que se considere la erradicación de la fiebre aftosa como un factor que disminuirá las restricciones sanitarias que actualmente limitan el comercio internacional mejorando, por consiguiente, el desarrollo de la economía del país. Al mismo tiempo, la erradicación de esta enfermedad mejorará las condiciones para las inversiones tecnológicas y permitirá alimentar en consecuencia la productividad y la calidad de los productos.

2. Sistema veterinario

2.1. Legislación

La misión examinó la legislación de sanidad animal y recibió un estudio de su evolución y aplicación llegando a la conclusión de que las leyes y reglamentaciones ofrecen una base apropiada para el programa. Dos cambios legislativos recientes revisten particular importancia, uno de ellos dispone el sacrificio obligatorio de animales en contacto y el segundo grava las exportaciones con un impuesto que servirá para financiar un programa de indemnización de los productores.

2.2. Servicios veterinarios oficiales

Se suministró una explicación minuciosa sobre la organización y funciones de los Servicios veterinarios a todo nivel. Dichos Servicios están bien organizados, bien equipados y cuentan con el personal adecuado con la experiencia y la formación necesarias para la erradicación, vigilancia y prevención de la fiebre aftosa.

3.5. Implementación

La implementación de la campaña para eliminar la fiebre aftosa, el personal, recursos y sistemas aun evidentes durante la visita de la misión perecieron apropiados y las medidas adoptadas tuvieron éxito. La infraestructura y compromiso del personal son suficientes para hacer frente a cualquier futura introducción de esta enfermedad. En varias oportunidades, la misión observó la aplicación uniforme de los elementos del programa.

3.6. Identificación y desplazamiento animal

Además de recibir una descripción de los procedimientos de identificación y desplazamiento de animales, la misión observó este elemento personalmente en el mercado ganadero y en el matadero. Las condiciones fueron consideradas estrictas y bien ejecutadas, en particular, la atención que se brindaba al control de desplazamiento y a la vigilancia. La misión piensa que este esquema ha contribuido a eliminar la fiebre aftosa y que es vital para el éxito de la prevención y vigilancia.

4. Vigilancia

4.1. Diagnóstico

4.1.2. Diagnóstico clínico

Tanto los productores como los veterinarios se encuentran en la obligación de informar de inmediato cualquier sospecha de enfermedad vesicular. Una impresionante campaña de relaciones públicas hace hincapié en la necesidad de informar rápidamente. Se explica que la respuesta oficial ante casos sospechosos se produce dentro de las 24 horas siguientes al informe y, tanto en el terreno como en el matadero, el rebaño está considerado como la unidad epidemiológica de interés. Se examinó la lista de investigaciones de casos sospechosos y de diagnósticos efectuados. Los sistemas de alerta oficial que se emplean en función del diagnóstico fueron considerados rigurosos. Particular importancia reviste la notificación de los resultados positivos o negativos a los coparticipes del programa regional.

4.1.3. Diagnóstico de laboratorio

Los procedimientos de diagnóstico de laboratorio fueron adecuados para el diagnóstico rápido y preciso de la fiebre aftosa.

4.2. Vigilancia serológica

Se considera que tanto en el terreno como en el matadero el rebaño es la unidad epidemiológica de interés. Cabe reconocer el mérito de los Servicios veterinarios por haber establecido un plan de muestreo serológico sobre bases estadísticas cuyos resultados indican a la fecha la ausencia de actividad del virus de la fiebre aftosa en el país. La misión recomienda que se envíe el plan al Centro regional de referencia de la fiebre aftosa (Centro de FA de la Organización Panamericana de la salud, Río de Janeiro) para que se estudie, principios epidemiológicos. De esta manera se podrán establecer protocolos futuros de vigilancia serológica que se emplearán en la región y en el resto de América del Sur.

La misión manifestó su inquietud frente al uso previo del método del antígeno viral asociado a la infección en la vigilancia serológica de ovejas sin vacunar debido a la baja sensibilidad de la prueba. Por este motivo, se recibió con entusiasmo la información de que actualmente Uruguay vuelve a efectuar pruebas con el suero de 3.500 ovejas recogido en 1992 aplicando la tecnología ELISA y que además de ahora en adelante sólo usará la prueba ELISA con el suero de ovejas.

4.3. Estadística demográfica y estructura económica

La misión ha observado favorablemente la atención que se brinda a la información epidemiológica. Se ha efectuado la descripción de rebaños y áreas por concentraciones, tamaño, sexo y especie así como por proporción de tipos de ganadería para definir y caracterizar los sistemas de producción.

En la descripción de rebaños y áreas de riesgo potencial se han incorporado patrones de desplazamientos precios actualizados del ganado.

6. Respuesta ante un brote

6.1. Política

La política de respuesta ante la detección de un brote de fiebre aftosa exige su erradicación inmediata incluyendo la destrucción de los animales infectados y en contacto en el matadero. La misión apoya el plan de Uruguay para introducir una legislación que posibilite el sacrificio en las explotaciones infectadas.

En el Servicio veterinario existe un fondo adecuado de compensación de emergencia. El Servicio tiene la experiencia y los planes necesarios para dar una respuesta efectiva.

6.2. Estudios epidemiológicos

El mismo sistema de identificación de explotaciones, identificación animales y controles de desplazamientos permitirán rastrear la fuente y limitar la propagación potencial en situaciones de brotes.

7. Actividades futuras

La misión destacó que la fase 2 de este programa prevista para 1994-1998 requiere el cese de la vacunación una vez que la situación regional de la fiebre aftosa permita hacerlo con un grado de seguridad razonable. El sistema regional empleado hace posible la extensión de fronteras epidemiológicas más allá de los límites políticos.

8. Conclusión

La misión se complace en recomendar al Comité General que se incluya a Uruguay en la categoría de países libres de fiebre aftosa con vacunación. Esta recomendación se basa en la demostración exitosa de los Servicios Veterinarios de este país de que se han satisfecho todos los criterios previstos en el artículo 2.1.1.2. del capítulo 2. 1. 1. del *Código zoosanitario internacional*. Estos criterios establecer, a saber, que un país debe,

- llevar un registro de información rápida de enfermedades de los animales
- enviar una declaración a la OIE de que no ha habido brote de fiebre aftosa en los últimos dos años, con evidencia documentada de que:
 - está en aplicación un sistema efectivo de vigilancia de la enfermedad y se han implementado todas las medidas reguladoras para la prevención y control de fiebre aftosa, y
 - la vacuna usada satisface las normas de la OIE.

Nota

Pos documentos presentados por Uruguay para respaldar su petición de reconocimiento como país libre de fiebre aftosa con vacunación estarán a disposición de los Delegados de los Países miembros para su consulta durante la Sesión general.



e incluye a Uruguay en la categoría de país libres de fiebre aftosa con vacunación.

191. A raíz de esta decisión, el Delegado de Bután pide que la OIE estudie también el caso de la peste bovina. En su respuesta, el Profesor Kihm menciona el Anexo III del informe que enumera los datos que hay que suministrar para la fiebre aftosa e indica que convendría seguramente establecer una lista muy similar para otras enfermedades.
192. El Profesor Kihm pregunta al Comité como habrá que proceder de ahora adelante: si bastará con estudiar los documentos enviados por los países si se enviarán sistemáticamente misiones de expertos.
193. Se entabla una discusión sobre este particular en la que participan Delegados de Alemania, Dinamarca, Italia, Kenia, Nueva Zelanda, Reino Un] y un representante de la DUA/IBAR. De la discusión se desprenden las ideas siguientes:

189. Fiebre aftosa

El Doctor Chillaud presentó a la Comisión un informe sobre la situación de la fiebre aftosa en el mundo.

Se estudió el nombramiento de Laboratorios regionales en Tailandia y Botsuana. El Laboratorio regional de Pakchong no trató muestras de virus que no procedían de Tailandia debido a insuficiencias de su sistema de seguridad biológica. La Comisión propuso estudiar este problema y buscar una solución durante la reunión del Grupo de coordinación de la DIE para la lucha contra la fiebre aftosa en Asia sudoriental (del 15 al 18 de febrero de 1993).

Para apoyar las actividades del Laboratorio regional para la fiebre aftosa de Gaborone (Botsuana), la Comisión sugirió celebrar su reunión científica cuatrienal en Botsuana, del 20 al 23 de abril de 1994. Los temas propuestos son los siguientes: fiebre aftosa, pleuroneumonía contagiosa bovina y peste equina.

190. En respuesta a la petición de Uruguay, que solicita su inclusión en la categoría de países considerados libres de fiebre aftosa, el Profesor Kihm presenta un resumen de la situación en Uruguay, basándose en los documentos suministrados por los Servicios veterinarios de este país y en el informe de la misión que, con el Doctor Astudillo (Panaftosa), el Doctor W. Sterritt (Canadá) y el Doctor R. Reichard (DIE), efectuó en dicho país.

Se propone que Uruguay sea reconocido libre de fiebre aftosa con vacunación.

El Delegado de Japón recuerda las reservas formuladas el año pasado por su país en lo relativo a la creación de una categoría de países libres de fiebre aftosa con vacunación.

El Delegado de Australia observa que la DIE está cambiando de orientación al encargarse de determinar la situación zoonositaria de un país en vez de dejar que ese asunto se trate en el ámbito de las relaciones bilaterales.

El Comité toma nota del informe de misión de los consultores de la DIE, adopta sus conclusiones e incluye a Uruguay en la categoría de países libres de fiebre aftosa con vacunación.

191. A raíz de esta decisión, el Delegado de Bután pide que la OIE estudie también el caso de la peste bovina. En su respuesta, el Profesor Kihm menciona el Anexo III del informe que enumera los datos que hay que suministrar para la fiebre aftosa e indica que convendría seguramente establecer una lista muy similar para otras enfermedades.
192. El Profesor Kihm pregunta al Comité como habrá que proceder de ahora en adelante: si bastará con estudiar los documentos enviados por los países o si se enviarán sistemáticamente misiones de expertos.

REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY



MINISTERIO DE GANADERIA AGRICULTURA Y PESCA

DIRECCION GENERAL DE SERVICIOS GANADEROS

INFORME DE LA SITUACION DE FIEBRE AFTOSA

JUNIO DE 1995.

Paraguay: sin focos desde setiembre de 1994.

Brasil: Santa Catalina y Río Grande do Sul sin focos desde diciembre de 1993;

Paraná: último foco, en mayo de 1995.

Uruguay: sin focos desde junio de 1990.

El sistema de información y vigilancia epidemiológica nacional, junto con el implementado en la región del Convenio funciona de la siguiente manera:

a) unidades sensoriales: los servicios veterinarios zonales o locales;

b) canales de comunicación: vía fax, o telefónica;

c) periodicidad: de inmediato, si hay sospecha fundada o ocurrencia de la enfermedad;

semanal, si es de ocurrencia negativa;

mensual, se comunica tanto la ausencia, la sospecha o presencia de la enfermedad

d) unidades receptoras: unidades centrales;

e) una vez recibida la información se distribuye a:

* a nivel nacional (inclusive a las asociaciones de productores Federación Rural, Asociación Rural del Uruguay, Cooperativas Agrarias Federadas)

* a nivel regional: - Paraná (Entre Ríos - Argentina)

- Asunción (Paraguay)

- Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul - Brasil)

• a nivel internacional: - Comunidad Económica Europea (Santiago de Chile - Bruselas)

- Ministerio de Agricultura, Abastecimientos y

Reforma Agraria (Coordinador de Defensa Sanitaria Animal)
Brasilia - Brasil

- Embajadas de Uruguay en Perú, Bélgica, Brasil

- Embajada de Israel en Argentina

- Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa

- Director General de Sanidad Animal - España

f) esta información es recíproca y se comunica:

1) la comunicación inmediata de ocurrencia de Fiebre Aftosa o sospecha fundada;

2) la comunicación semanal negativa o de ocurrencia de Fiebre Aftosa;

3) comunicación mensual negativa, de sospecha fundada o ocurrencia de enfermedad indicándose una serie de datos en el formulario respectivo.

Existen dos niveles de comunicación: el nivel local y el nivel central. En los niveles locales

ante la ocurrencia o sospecha fundada de Fiebre aftosa se debe comunicar en forma urgente por fax

o teléfono la situación, a las área co-lindantes independiente que sea del mismo u otro país, a la

unidad veterinaria correspondiente. En caso de las áreas fronterizas, a las oficinas respectivas

establecidas por el Convenio. En los niveles centrales se debe emitir un fax desde la central del

Sistema de Información en el país o región, al resto de las unidades centrales del sistema y a la

Coordinación del Proyecto, en forma inmediata a la recepción de la información desde los niveles

locales. El formato de fax será el mismo para las comunicaciones inmediatas como para la semanal,

diferenciándose en que esta última deberá tener mayor grado de detalle de la información respecto a

origen de foco, diagnóstico, comentarios epidemiológicos y medidas adoptadas.

1.2. Industria Ganadera

El sector pecuario uruguayo representa en la actualidad el 10% del total de la economía, medido a través del PBI, ocupando unos 141 mil trabajadores, en aproximadamente 53 mil establecimientos.

El marco legal existente en el Uruguay, en materia de sanidad animal habilita a los Servicios Veterinarios prevenir, controlar y erradicar las enfermedades de los animales en el país (Ley 3.606, del 13/04/1910).

En lo referente a fiebre aftosa, el 18 de octubre de 1989 fue aprobada la Ley 16.082 de Control y Erradicación y su decreto reglamentario (N1 244/90, del 30/05/90), quien define a la Dirección General de Servicios Veterinarios (D.G.S.V) (hoy Dirección General de Servicios Ganaderos)- del Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca (M.G.A.P) como autoridad sanitaria competente para la ejecución del programa.

La legislación vigente previó para la erradicación de la Fiebre Aftosa, tres etapas:

* una etapa preparatoria: con el objetivo de profundización del control y detección de animales infectados o portadores y su posterior envío a faena obligatoria, ya finalizada. Se extendió desde 18 de octubre de 1989 hasta el 10 de agosto de 1992;

* la primera etapa: con el objetivo de la ausencia clínica de la enfermedad por medio de la vacuna masiva de la especie bovina y el envío a faena obligatoria de los animales que se detectaran como de riesgo para la fiebre aftosa por investigaciones epidemiológicas, ejecutada desde el 11 de agosto de 1992. La misma fue dispuesta por resolución del Ministerio de Ganadería y Agricultura y Pesca en base a la evaluación de desarrollo de la Campaña contra la Fiebre Aftosa efectuada por la Dirección General de Servicios Ganaderos tomando en cuenta los parámetros establecidos por la legislación vigente.

* la segunda etapa: a partir del 16 de junio de 1994, se dispuso el ingreso a la segunda etapa donde las acciones sanitarias estarán dirigidas al mantenimiento de país libre de fiebre Aftosa sin vacunación, regulada por decreto 261/994, de 7 de junio de 1994. En la fecha indicada, se dispuso:

- a) el cese de la vacunación
- b) el cese de la manipulación del virus tanto por particulares como por entidades públicas
- c) prohibición de la importación de animales vacunados contra la Fiebre aftosa
- d) cese de elaboración de vacunas
- e) secuestro administrativo del stock de vacunas a esa fecha, con el único destino a exportación antes de la fecha de su vencimiento

2.2. Servicios Veterinarios Oficiales

A partir del 1E de enero de 1994, los Servicios Veterinarios, Programa 05 del Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca pasaron a denominarse Servicios Ganaderos, contando para cumplir sus cometidos con cinco Unidades Ejecutoras.

Dirección General de Servicios Ganaderos:

Objetivo general:

Prevenir, controlar y/o erradicar enfermedades que afectan a los animales de interés productivo y zoonóticas;
determinar la aptitud y controlar la calidad de los productos de origen animal destinados al consumo humano.

Recursos humanos:

profesionales: 12; total personal: 116;

Dirección de Laboratorios Veterinarios:

Objetivo general:

Diagnosticar, investigar y proyectar métodos para la prevención, el control y la erradicación de enfermedades que afectan a los animales de interés productivo y zoonóticas;
controlar la calidad de los productos de uso veterinario.

Recursos humanos:

profesionales: 72; total personal: 248;

Dirección de Sanidad Animal:

Objetivo general:

Promover y defender la salud animal, a través de la prevención, el control y la erradicación de las enfermedades que afectan a las especies domésticas, permitiendo que puedan expresar sus respectivas potencialidades en materia de producción y productividad.

Recursos humanos:

profesionales: 96; total personal: 408;

Dirección de Industria Animal:

Objetivo general: