



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

INTER-AMERICAN MEETING ON FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND ZONOSSES CONTROL

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, 14-17 MAY 1969

Provisional Agenda Item 9

RICAZ2/20 (Eng.)
5 May 1969
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

STATUS OF VESICULAR DISEASE

PREVENTIVE PROGRAMS * 1968

- A. NORTH AMERICA
- B. CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA
- C. CARIBBEAN ZONE

* This document summarizes the information supplied by the countries in response to the corresponding questionnaire circulated by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center

A. NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

During the year 1963 Canada exported more than 350 thousand head of cattle on the hoof, a smaller number of other kinds of livestock and close to a million tons of beef, to 54 countries on all continents (see Table 1).

The organization of the Health of Animals Branch of the Department of Agriculture, in charge of the preventive program against the introduction of exotic animal diseases, has remained unchanged. Although the precise sum of money assigned by the Government to this activity is not specified, it is recognized that the preventive program for vesicular diseases amounts to about one and a half million dollars.

The sole outbreak of foot-and-mouth recorded in Canada occurred in 1952 and was speedily eradicated. Vesicular stomatitis has not been diagnosed in this country.

Canada is not a party to any international agreements on animal health.

UNITED STATES

In 1963, the United States exported about 135,000 head of livestock of various species to Canada, Mexico and all of the countries of Central and South America except French Guiana, Panama and the Caribbean countries, to 10 European and 4 African countries, and to Japan, Korea, Formosa, India, the Philippines and Australia (see Table 1).

There have been no changes in the structure of the official agencies responsible for preventing and eradicating possible outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease and other exotic diseases of animals. Nor in the procedures adopted or the corresponding domestic legislation.

On July 6, Public Law No 90-383 was passed, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the governments of Central America and Panama in programs for preventing, controlling and eradicating foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest. On the basis of this law, preparation is being made for the development of a cooperative program similar to that of the Mexico-United States Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

The budget of the Animal Health Division for preventive programs summed up to 2.3 million dollars in 1963, and an increase of about 5% is estimated for the fiscal year of 1969.

Vesicular diseases were diagnosed in 11 cases, distributed over Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi, and in each case the virus of vesicular stomatitis was identified (see Table 2).

The last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States occurred in California in 1929.

MEXICO

The cattle export trade to the United States has been going ahead normally, amounting to 601,000 head of cattle on the hoof and 257,000 carcasses processed as boneless beef. In addition, this country has sold to Japan 6,000,000 kg. of horse meat.

The Department in charge of ports and frontier surveillance of the Animal Health Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, controls the movement of livestock and products of animal origin through 14 border points with the United States, 1 with British Honduras and 2 with Guatemala, 5 ports on the Gulf of Mexico and 7 on the Pacific seaboard, besides 4 international airports.

New regulations for the import and export of animals and animal products are now being prepared. No agreements have been concluded with other countries for the prevention and control of exotic diseases, except the one with the United States that has been in force for several years.

The 1963 budget of the Animal Health Branch, including preventive activities, amounted to \$12,000,000, and for 1969 the assignment has been nearly doubled. No mention has been made of any further need of financial support for the activities in question.

During 1963, 37 reports of vesicular outbreaks have been investigated. In 25 cases, New Jersey virus of vesicular stomatitis was identified, in 13, Indiana type, while 27 showed evidence of both viruses; 22 cases proved negative as regards identifying the causative agent.

Throughout the history of Mexico, there have been no known attacks of foot-and-mouth disease except one, which lasted from 1946 to 1953, the year in which it was stamped out.

B. CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA

COSTA RICA

The sales of boneless and frozen beef to the United States have continued to rise. The 22 million lbs. exported in the previous year increased to 30 million in 1968. On the hoof, 2,215 head of cattle were shipped to Aruba, Guaraçao, Martinique, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. Among animal products, sold to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, leading exports proved to be: 1 million lbs. of hides, 700,000 lbs. of blood meal, 600,000 lbs. of bone meal and about as much of dairy products.

The Animal Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture has been transformed into a Sub-Directorate, with a Division responsible for import control and animal quarantine. The animal health budget was \$640,000 for 1968 and will rise to \$632,000 in 1969. About one-quarter of this amount is allotted for prevention of exotic diseases.

Costa Rica operates 6 import control stations for livestock and animal products at: 2 Pacific and 1 Atlantic port, 1 airport, 1 inland station on the border with Nicaragua and 1 on the Panamanian border.

Four outbreaks of vesicular diseases have been recorded, only in cattle. In each case New Jersey virus of vesicular stomatitis was identified.

In Costa Rica, as in the other countries of Central America, Panama and the Caribbean, the existence of foot-and-mouth disease has never been observed.

EL SALVADOR

About 11,000 head of cattle and 1,500 hogs were exported to Guatemala. Some 2 million square feet of pigskin and 100,000 lbs. of bone meal were also sold to this country. Lesser quantities of animal products were exported to Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras.

No change was made in the structure of the Animal Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture which is responsible for the program of preventing diseases entering the country from foreign sources. Activity in this field covers inspection at 3 seaports, 1 airport, 3 frontier stations with Guatemala and 2 with Honduras.

Animal quarantine and inspection services were allotted in 1968 91,300 colones, which amounts to roughly a quarter of the total budget

for the Animal Health Department.

In 1968, 42 cases of vesicular diseases were detected. On 5 occasions New Jersey vesicular stomatitis was diagnosed and on one, Indiana type.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala's large beef market continues to be the United States, to which more than 9 million lbs. were exported. About 350,000 lbs. of processed meat were sold in Central America, also 370,000 lbs. of dairy products and 734 head of cattle on the hoof, were sold in these countries. Though still important, the exports of beef to the United States have declined appreciably, for in 1967 they were approximately double that in 1968.

A lack of budget appropriations has not allowed an adequate administrative organization to be built up for the prevention and control of exotic animal diseases. A bill is now pending that is designed to modify and substantially improve the regulations concerning animal health.

Several vesicular outbreaks were reported, but only 2 investigated; New Jersey virus of vesicular stomatitis was identified in either case.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua exported 33 million lbs. of frozen beef to the United States and a small quantity to Costa Rica. Likewise, 487 head of cattle were sold to Costa Rica, Honduras and Martinique. A large number of animal products were sold all over Central America and even in Europe.

In 1968, a veterinarian surgeon attached to the International Service for the Prevention of Exotic Diseases (SIPEE), sponsored by the Regional International Organization of Agricultural and Animal Health (OIRSA), took office. This is the only administrative change affecting the activities surveyed, which, as regards port control, remain the responsibility of the Plant Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The sum of 405,000 cordobas was earmarked for activities in the field of Animal Health and this figure has been maintained for the current year.

The official service took notice of 9 cases of vesicular diseases. Three turned out to be positive to New Jersey virus of vesicular stomatitis, 1 to Indiana type and 5 negative. It is thought that this

incidence is far below the reality, and that therefore cattlemen's reports can only be held to a factor of relative value.

PANAMA

Some 4 million lbs. of beef were exported to the United States. This is equivalent to about 13,000 head of cattle, which means an increase of 40% over the figures for the preceding year. Approximately 13,600 oxhides were exported to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and the Netherlands.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries has been reorganized, with an Animal Health Department established as a dependency of the Agricultural and Animal Health Branch. The new department is responsible for the prevention of exotic diseases and for quarantine, which cover 9 seaports, 1 airport and 2 inland stations on the western frontier.

Panama has continued the development of the program of foot-and-mouth disease prevention in the Darien, in cooperation with OIRSA, and is continuing to promote the necessary negotiations for an international agreement for the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease to be set up again with Colombia; cooperation has been requested from international organizations such as OIRSA and the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center. This Center keeps a consultant at Panama, who provides technical advice and coordination for these activities.

In 1963, 6 cases of vesicular stomatitis were identified as having been caused by Indiana and New Jersey types of virus. The number of cases diagnosed was not specified.

C. CARIBBEAN ZONE

No information has been received from the Dutch West Indies, British Honduras, Jamaica, the United Kingdom, (Tortola, St. Kitts - Nevis - Anguilla, Montserrat, the Bermudas, the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands).

On the other hand, there has been no news of any change in the situation as regards the absence in those islands of vesicular animal diseases.

BARBADOS

Barbados has exported brood stock of various kinds of domestic animals in small quantities to neighboring islands, including Antigua, Grenada, Santa Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad.

Pursuant to a policy of prevention of exotic animal diseases, it continues to prohibit the import of animals and animal products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases unknown in Barbados are prevalent. Advantage was taken of the annual meeting of the Association of Veterinarians of the Governments of the United Kingdom in the Caribbean to analyse the situation with regard to the steps to be taken to combat animal diseases.

GUYANA

The export market for cattle and beef to French Guiana, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, totalling the equivalent of 400,000 lbs of beef, has remained stable; 170,000 lbs. of cowhides were sold in Great Britain and the Netherlands.

There has been no change in the organization of the Government services responsible for the prevention of animal diseases, which is assigned to the Division of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Production of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, nor in the corresponding legislation.

In October, the Second Conference on Foot-and-Mouth Disease between Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela was held in Georgetown with the participation of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, to study the coordination of a program for controlling the disease in the border region of the three countries. Negotiations are proceeding for the corresponding signature of an agreement by the interested parties.

HAITI

Up till now, the country has had no veterinary service. Some of the corresponding functions have been split up among the various government departments. The French Government Program of Technical Assistance sent a veterinarian to Haiti and he has proposed centralizing the activities relating prevention and control of animal diseases in a specialized service.

No vesicular disease has ever been described in Haiti livestock.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Among the livestock products exported last year figure three and a half million kg. of beef and 917 head of cattle on the hoof. Shipments went mainly to the United States, followed by Curacao and Martinique.

The Animal Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture maintained services of veterinary inspection in 4 seaports and 2 airports to avoid the introduction of exotic diseases. The budget for the corresponding functions, which amounted to 340,000 pesos in 1968, has been raised to 450,000 pesos for the current year.

In the Dominican Republic, vesicular diseases have never been diagnosed in animals.

GURINAM

In 1968, there has been no outbreak of vesicular diseases among the Surinam herds. Imports of livestock are inspected by personnel employed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Production and Fisheries, at 1 seaport, 2 airports and 2 inland frontier stations.

There is no special program and no specific budget for government activities in preventing exotic diseases. Nor are there any agreements with other countries on this matter.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The report from Trinidad and Tobago mentions the export of buffalo to Colombia and various animal products to the Caribbean countries amounting to a total value of US\$ 7,000.

The Division of Animal Health of the Ministry of Agriculture was assigned US\$ 72,000 for defraying the cost of preventing disease in 1968, and that appropriation was raised to US\$ 84,000 in 1969.

No outbreak of vesicular diseases occurred in the course of the year in question.

SUMMARY OF NORTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, PANAMA AND THE CARIBBEAN ZONE

All the countries and territories in this great area, including French Guiana, Guyana and Surinam, in South America, remain free from foot-and-mouth disease.

It is recognized that, apart from natural factors, this privileged situation mainly reflects the absence of imports of animals liable to contract foot-and-mouth disease or products that might act as vectors of the virus of that affection, proceeding from countries where it occurs.

Fulfillment of regulations designed to maintain the corresponding measures of control depends directly on the extent, quality, organization and legal and financial support of the official veterinary services.

Canada, the United States and Mexico show that their institutions and means are adequate to protect their stockfarming industry from the threat of exotic diseases. The last two have gained even stronger protection from coordinated programs and particularly through the Mexico-United States Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

The other countries in the area find themselves in a far less favorable situation; though varying widely, in some cases the danger is very real. In this connection, budgetary problems predominate, sometimes followed by organizational defects and a lack of support from suitable legislation. In the area comprising Central America and Panama, OIRSA has collaborated with the national services to correct this state of affairs.

For its part, the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center cooperates with all these countries, granting them technical assistance, training and diagnostical services in relation to vesicular diseases. United States Public Law 90-368 increases the possibilities of establishing a cooperative agreement for them similar to that concluded with Mexico.

Basic conditions are apparently favorable to the re-establishment of a cooperative foot-and-mouth disease agreement between Colombia and Panama, with the participation of the Regional International Organization of Agricultural and Animal Health (OIRSA) and the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC). This at least is to be inferred from the preparatory negotiations and the matter is expected to be settled this year. The program envisaged will considerably reinforce the endeavors

to prevent foot and-mouth disease being introduced into Panama and then spreading to the countries of Central America.

From the United States to Panama, all the countries have noted the occurrence of vesicular stomatitis (see Table 2). The United States and Mexico can rely on laboratories of their own for diagnosis. The others make use of the service of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in Rio de Janeiro.

Table 1. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN CATTLE AND BEEF BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA,
CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 1968

| Country | Cattle on the hoof | Beef | Destination |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| <u>North America</u> | | | |
| Canada | 353 658 | 988 570 000 lbs. | 54 countries |
| Mexico | 601 000 | 257 000 head | U.S.A. |
| U.S.A. | 185 000 * | - | 49 countries |
| <u>Central America</u> | | | |
| Costa Rica | 2 215 | 30 000 000 lbs. | Aruba, Curaçao, USA, Martinique, Nicaragua and Panama |
| El Salvador | 10 816 | - | Guatemala |
| Guatemala | 734 | 9 500 000 lbs | Central America and USA |
| Honduras | 47 503 | 13 400 000 lbs | Aruba, Curaçao, El Salvador, USA |
| Nicaragua | 487 | 33 000 000 lbs | Costa Rica, USA, Honduras, Marti- nique |
| Panama | -- | 4 000 000 lbs | USA |
| <u>Caribbean</u> | | | |
| Guyana | 750 | 58 000 lbs. | French Guiana, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago |
| Haiti | -- | 823 tons | USA (Puerto Rico) |
| Dominican Republic | 917 | 3 500 000 kg. | Curaçao, USA, Martinique |
| Trinidad | Buffalo | ? | Caribbean and Colombia |

* Animals of various kinds.

Table 2. OCCURRENCE OF VESICULAR STOCHILITIS IN 1968 IN THE REGION
OF THE AMERICAS FREE FROM FOOT- AND-MOUTH DISEASE

| Country | Cases reported * | Viruses identified |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <u>North America</u> | | |
| Canada | 0 | - |
| U.S.A. | 11 | Indiana and New Jersey |
| Mexico | 87 | Indiana and New Jersey |
| <u>Central America</u> | | |
| Costa Rica | 4 | New Jersey |
| El Salvador | 42 | Indiana and New Jersey |
| Guatemala | 2 | New Jersey |
| Honduras | 14 | Indiana and New Jersey |
| Nicaragua | 9 | Indiana and New Jersey |
| Panama | 6 | Indiana and New Jersey |
| <u>Caribbean</u> | Disease never reported | Except for the isolation of a coxal virus in Trinidad in 1961 in field mouse ticks |
| <u>South America</u> | | |
| French Guiana | Disease never reported | |
| Guyana | Disease never reported | |
| Surinam | Disease never reported | |

* The incidence of the disease in the countries attained by it cannot be compared on the basis of this report, for it is incomplete to a varying extent.