

PERU CLOSE TO ERADICATING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

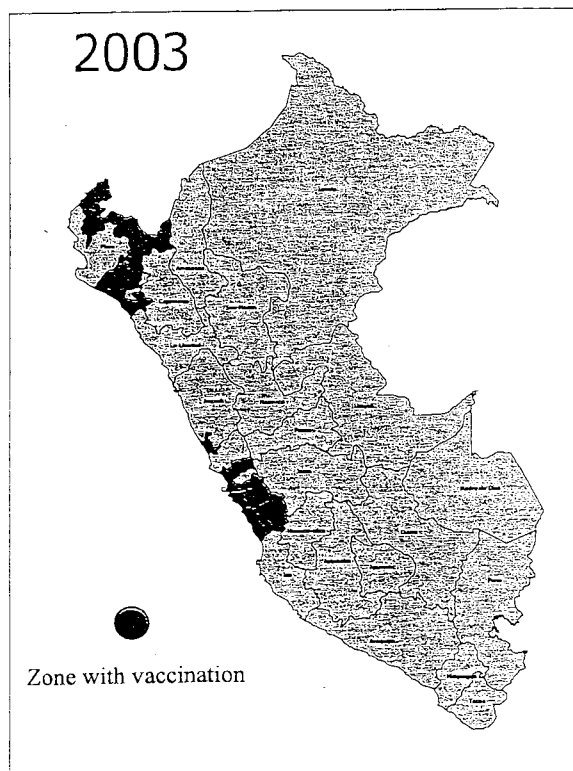
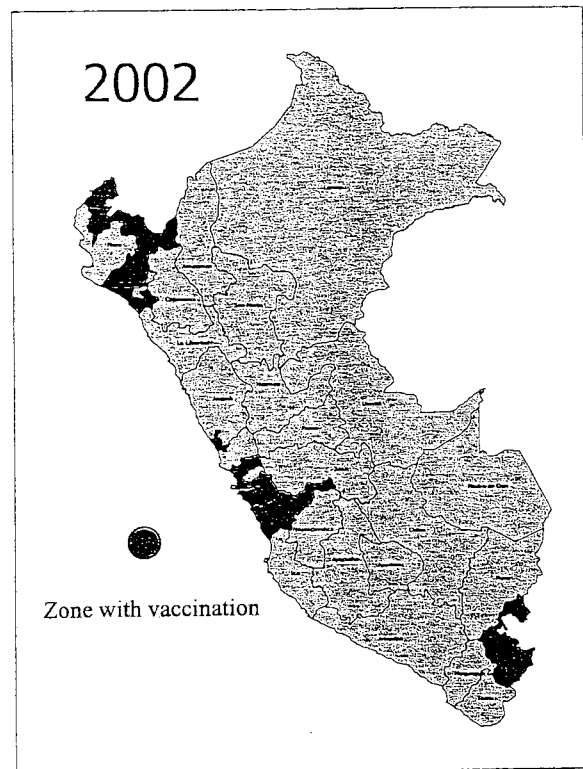
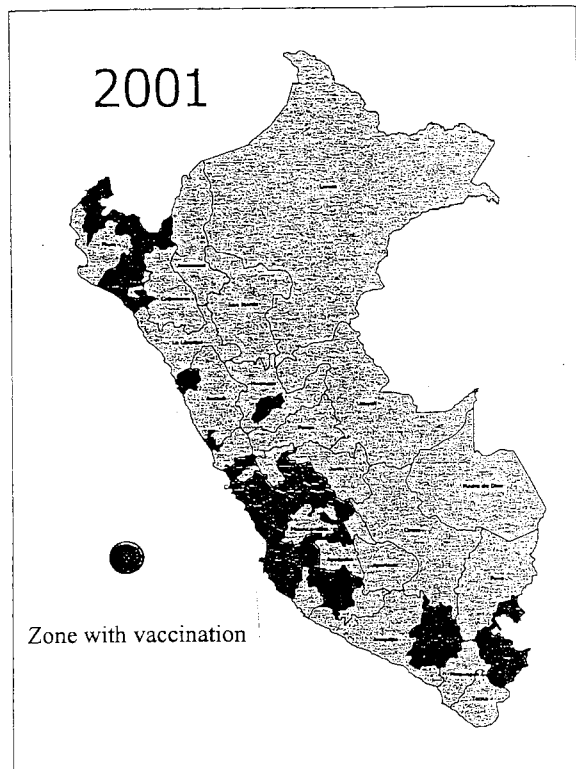
Communication from Peru

1. Since 1998, Peru's National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA) has been implementing a plan to control and eradicate foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) throughout the national territory, as part of a process to improve agrarian health. The objective is for Peru to gain and maintain its status as a country free from the disease.
2. The following results have been achieved to date:
 - 93 per cent of the national territory, which holds 83 per cent of the bovine population, is a zone free from the disease without vaccination;
 - as at June 2003, Peru had recorded 137 consecutive epidemiological weeks without FMD cases across the national territory.
3. In order to achieve these results, Peru has adopted a Regulation on the Control and Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and has established a cold chain; the national epidemiological surveillance system has been upgraded, expanded and refined; and intensive and systematic vaccination campaigns have been conducted since 1998, with extensive participation from livestock farmers.
4. Peru has no ecosystems endemic for FMD virus, and strategic vaccination campaigns are therefore carried out only in border areas considered to be at high risk of FMD, while quarantine protection measures are maintained in the departments that have been declared free from the disease.
5. The above achievements are of direct economic benefit to livestock farmers and hence to the country as a whole. As an example, by maintaining areas without vaccination against the disease Peru has saved US\$4.4 million per year since 2001.
6. SENASA is now preparing the technical file to be presented at the next Session of the Office International des Épizooties with a view to requesting international recognition of FMD-free zone without vaccination status for large parts of Peruvian territory. SENASA is receiving advice on the matter from the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

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As at June 2003, Peru had recorded 137 consecutive epidemiological weeks without FMD cases. Peru has no FMD-endemic ecosystems and zones where vaccination is not practised now cover 93 per cent of the national territory. This favourable situation will enable Peru to apply, at the next Session of the Office International des Épizooties, for recognition of zones free of foot-and-mouth disease.

TREND IN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINATION: 2001-2003



Departments declared free from FMD: 2003*

