

**REPORT BY COLOMBIA ON THE SITUATION AND CONTROL OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE**

Communication from Colombia

Colombia wishes to report to the international community through the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures on the progress of the programme to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the country and the current situation.

Free zone without vaccination

1. In 1997, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) recognized the northern part of the department of Chocó to be an FMD free zone without vaccination, a status that has been renewed annually by the OIE at its General Session.

Free zone with vaccination

2. In May 2001, the OIE recognized Colombia's north zone, including most of the departments on the Atlantic Coast, part of the department of Antioquia and seven municipalities in the northern department of Caldas, to be FMD free with vaccination.

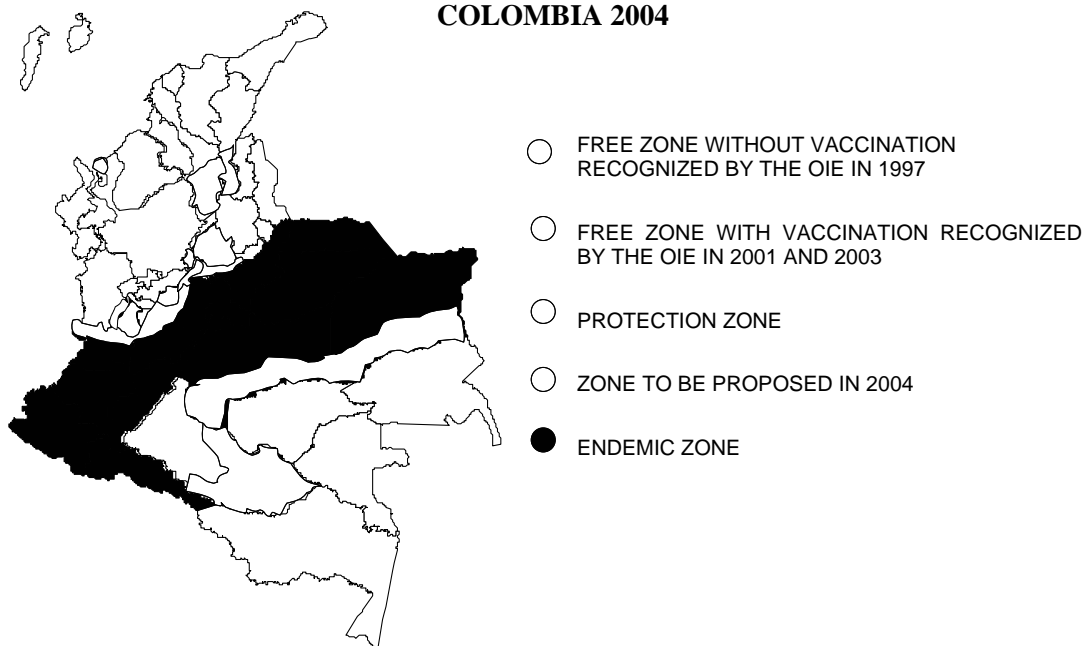
In May 2003, the OIE recognized a new zone, including the majority of municipalities located in the departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Cesar, North Santander and Santander, to be FMD free with vaccination.

Zone proposed for recognition as FMD free with vaccination

3. This year, Colombia's Official Animal Health Service submitted to the OIE the documentation required to request recognition of two new FMD free zones with vaccination. This documentation is due to be considered at the next meeting, in October. Colombia will send the additional information required by the OIE before that meeting.

For greater clarity, we have attached a political map of Colombia showing the geographical location of each of the zones described according to the current FMD situation.

PROPOSED ZONING COLOMBIA 2004



General Comments

- Colombia has a bovine population of 21,793,434 in 483,135 herds, of which almost 50 per cent are located in zones recognized as being FMD free, with and without vaccination.
- The country covers an area of 1,141,748 square kilometres, of which 269,047 correspond to the zone recognized as being FMD free.
- The last outbreak of the disease in the country occurred on 22 September 2002, in a municipality located in the so-called endemic zone, meaning that 21 months have passed without an outbreak in any part of the country.
- The vaccination against FMD is administered by the National Livestock Federation through its 80 Livestock Committees and its 4,914 vaccinators. Furthermore, additional vaccinators are provided by the departmental agricultural authorities and by the Municipal Agricultural Technical Assistance Units (UMATA).
- Vaccination is carried out in cycles, with two cycles taking place per year, each one lasting 45 days.
- The vaccination coverage rates at the country level for the last four years have been as follows:

-	2000	85.5 per cent
-	2001	91.3 per cent

- 2002 92.7 per cent
 - 2003 95.0 per cent
 - In order to control the movement of animals and animal products within the country and at borders, the animal health service has established 58 control posts that are strategically located in accordance with the epidemiological status of the zones, movement patterns and production systems, and at which compliance with established standards is verified.
 - In order to minimize the risk of introducing FMD through imports of live animals and animal products, the sanitary measures established in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the Andean Community rules and the sanitary agreements with individual countries are applied.
 - Strict controls are applied at livestock markets and auctions and generally anywhere where there is a concentration of animals, using appropriate legislation to control the disease.
 - Legislation has been adapted to reflect the current FMD situation, in accordance with OIE standards.
 - Cold stores for exports that meet with international standards are strategically located throughout the country.
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