

**NEWCASTLE DISEASE – BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCE IN  
CERTIFYING FLOCKS DISEASE FREE**

Communication from Brazil

The following communication, received on 2 December 2005, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Brazil.

1. Thanks to the joint efforts by producers and government bodies to implement sanitary measures, in 2003 Brazil was able to declare free of Newcastle disease the industrial poultry flocks of nine of its States, namely: Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Paraná, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso and the Federal District.
2. This declaration was made possible by five years without a single occurrence of the disease in the production units of those States and a rigorous seroepidemiological study to evaluate the activity of the Newcastle disease virus in industrial poultry flocks.
3. The strict application of the diagnosis techniques recommended by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) enabled Brazil, in addition, to communicate the new sanitary status of its industrial poultry flocks to that Organization.
4. The nine States whose poultry flocks were certified together cover approximately 40 per cent of the Brazilian territory, account for the bulk of the country's production, and exported almost 100 per cent of the volume of poultry products in 2004.
5. Worth noting is the absence of any avian influenza virus activity in the industrial flocks of those States and the negative results of the investigations for Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses in migrating birds conducted jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA), the Ministry of Health (MS), and the Ministry of the Environment (MA) in the main areas concerned by migration in Brazil.
6. This Brazilian declaration rewarded Brazilian producers for their expenditure on equipment and handling technology applied to poultry health. The development of the productive sector contributed to the increase in the health standards and safety of the Brazilian product already recognized by a number of countries before Brazil had made its declaration. At the end of 2002, Brazil was already exporting frozen poultry meat to 87 countries.
7. In addition to the high genetics and advanced technology used, other factors, such as the abundant grain harvests (soya beans and maize), helped to reduce the cost of poultry meat production in Brazil, and contributed to the increase in productivity and hence the increase in exports. Thus, it is

impossible to establish a direct correlation between the declaration of Newcastle disease free flocks and the historical increase in Brazilian exports.

8. However, after declaring the poultry flocks of nine States free from Newcastle disease, Brazil ended the Year 2003 with 111 countries importing frozen poultry meat. This represents a 27.5 per cent increase in the number of importing countries as compared to 2002. Since 1999, there had been no comparable growth in the number of countries importing from Brazil.

9. With respect to the quantity of whole poultry exported, there was an average increase of 16.09 per cent during the years from 1998 to 2002, while the increase in quantities exported in 2003 as compared to 2002 was 18.34 per cent, and in 2004 as compared to 2003, 22.12 per cent.

10. As regards total exports of poultry products, growth rates varied during the period from 1998 to 2002, alternating between periods of considerable expansion and periods of negative growth. Thus, the average annual growth in the quantities exported during that period was 0.57 per cent. However, the figure for 2003 shows a 25.81 per cent growth over 2002, and the figure for 2004 again shows a 26.14 per cent growth over 2003.

11. In spite of the sanitary status of the Brazilian industrial poultry population, certain major importing countries impose restrictions on Brazilian poultry meat in connection with Newcastle disease. A closer look at these restrictions reveals the failure to bring sanitary requirements into line with OIE recommendations, and above all, the failure to recognize equivalent sanitary measures. It should be noted that the lack of OIE recommendations applicable to the recognition of zones free of this disease makes the bilateral negotiations for access to international markets more difficult, and considerably more subjective. For the purposes of establishing international standards applicable to the recognition of zones free of Newcastle disease, the absence of any contact between birds in the industrial production system and other birds present in the territory needs to be taken into consideration.

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