

HEALTH STATUS REPORT

Communication from Paraguay

The following communication, received on 17 June 2010, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Paraguay.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

1. The National Programme for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease has been under way since 1992, and in 1997 Paraguay obtained the status of "foot and mouth disease-free country with vaccination" for the first time.
2. At the recent 78th General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Paraguay was once again granted the status of "foot and mouth disease-free country with vaccination", a category in which the country had been classified since 2007, in view of the ongoing implementation in the region of an agreement between the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP) and the OIE to establish high surveillance zones in areas along the borders of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.
3. In this connection, it is important to highlight that the joint efforts between the public and the productive sectors will lead to the construction of a new BSL3-ag (biosafety level 3 for agricultural hazards) diagnostic laboratory for foot and mouth disease and potentially other diseases exotic to Paraguay, which will be of significant value for both animal and public health.
4. This will provide the Veterinary Service with suitable facilities for risk material management and foot and mouth disease immunization control that can be used in the country with sufficient latitude and under proper biosafety conditions.

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

5. Since 1996, Paraguay has been implementing its Prevention Programme for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), and in 2000 it acquired the status of Geographical BSE Risk 1 Country, granted by the European Union.
6. In 2005, Paraguay was certified by the OIE as a "BSE Provisionally Free Country" on the basis of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code in effect at the time.
7. In 2008, Paraguay was certified by the OIE as a "BSE Negligible Risk" country in accordance with the current Terrestrial Animal Health Code. On the basis of the documents submitted on the

country's health status in regard to the disease, Paraguay was re-certified as a "BSE Negligible Risk" country at the recent General Session of the OIE last May.

RINDERPEST

8. At its May 2010 General Session held in Paris, France, the OIE once again granted Paraguay the status of country free from the disease.

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER

9. The National Swine Health Plan of Paraguay and the Programme for the Eradication of Classical Swine Fever 2010-2012 were adopted by Executive Decree No. 4.214 enacted on 16 April 2010, not only covering matters relating to the sector's production but also providing for the improvement of health conditions among the country's swine population. Immunization against classical swine fever has been prohibited throughout the country, moving the National Eradication Programme towards its final phase with the establishment of a surveillance programme, considering the absence of viral circulation of the disease.
