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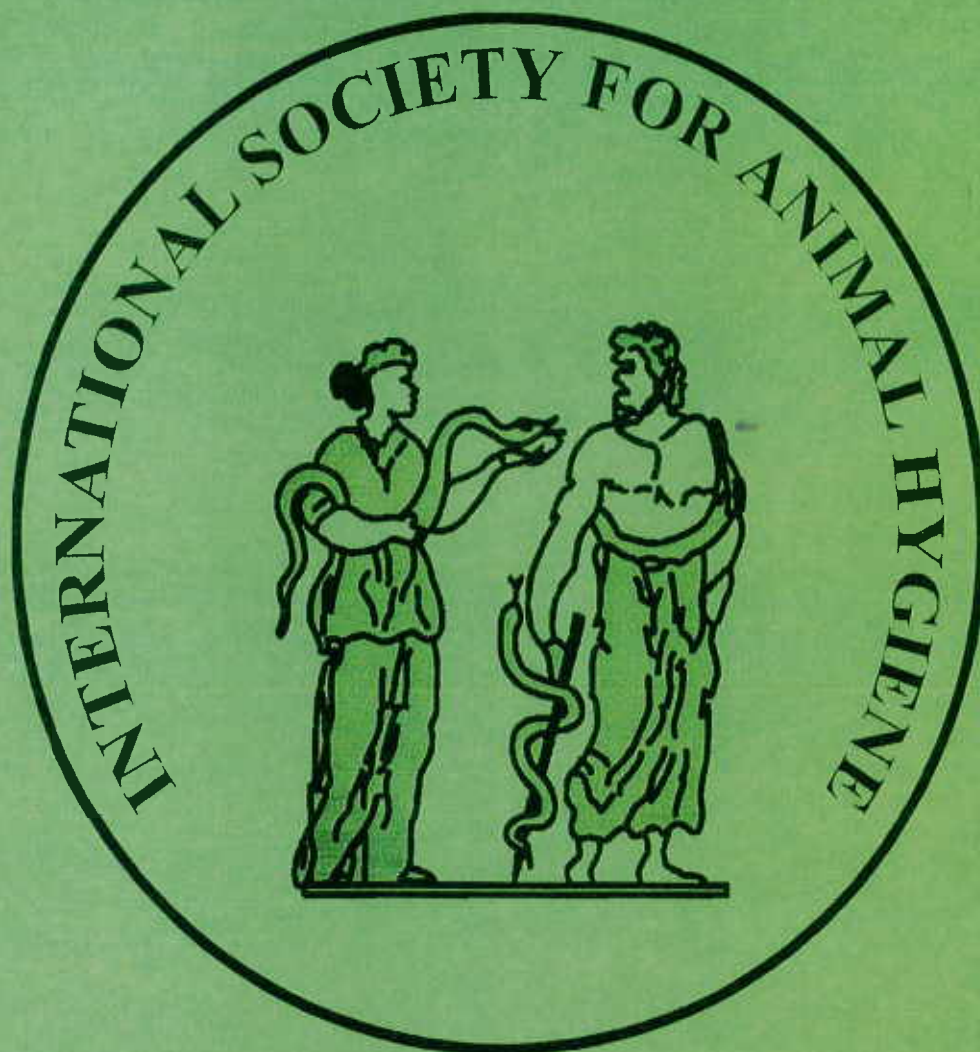
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International Society for Animal Hygiene

Newsletter n°11

ISSUE 11

June 2004



Dear Colleagues,

Time is passing by so fast and we are so busy with organizational, scientific and professional works that we do not even notice that it is already over a year after the XIth ISAH Congress in Mexico and only one year left till the XII ISAH main Congress in Warsaw.

Between those congresses we all attend a lot of conferences, other congresses sometimes also supported by ISAH.

The executive board of ISAH is taking care of all these problems. Very soon I will be opening as a President of ISAH the II International Symposium 21-23 June 2004 here in Poland in Balice. The symposium is organized by the National research Institute of Animal Production. Its main subject is "The impact of Environmental Conditions on Animal Welfare".

There will be an in-between Congress of the ISAH in Saint Malo (France) planned for 11-13 October 2004 with the title "Animal production in Europe: The Way Forward in a Changing World".

The subjects of this Congress are very up-to-date and they are covering the most important issues in the field of animal health, veterinary public health and animal production and society.

What is the most interesting for our colleagues from new EU member states is that the subjects of the congress are dealing with actual changes in animal production connected with enlargement of EU.

In our every day work we have to think about the future of the ISAH. The Executive board initiated the start up of the forum discussion via email coordinated by Thomas Blaha. In my opinion there are two fundamental problems which are to be discussed within the EB and the EEB (country representatives). The first one concerns joining of ISAH to some other stronger international scientific organization and the second one concerns the president of ISAH. We have to decide whether the President should be elected for the period between the main congresses or should we have a stable one. Every solution has its advantages and disadvantages. We will see how the discussion will go on. But for sure during our forum discussion there will be a consolidation and closer cooperation between ISAH members.

The next task realized successfully by ISAH is the creation of ISAH website designed by Jan Venglovsky from Slovakia.

I truly recommend visiting this website: www.isah-soc.org

Information concerning the XII ISAH congress are placed on congress website which is: www.sggw.waw.pl/~isah2005

Best regards,

President of ISAH

Prof. Dr hab. Andrzej Krynski

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Food for Thought on the Future of ISAH

*Thomas Blaha, DVM, Ph.D., Professor of Epidemiology, Dipl. ECVPH
University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany.*

We all look forward to meeting ISAH members and other colleagues that are interested in ISAH at the well-prepared in-between ISAH Congress from October 11 to 13, 2004 in Saint-Malo, France, entitled "Animal production in Europe: The way forward in a changing world".

As many of the ISAH members, especially the members of the Executive Board (EB) and the members of the Extended Executive Board (EEB) of ISAH will know, the EEB decided at the 2002 ISAH Meeting in Mexico City that ISAH should take the opportunity of the upcoming Saint-Malo meeting to make some major decisions on the scope and the organizational structure of our still somewhat tiny and humble society.

The background for this plan is that we all are witnesses and simultaneously active and/or passive parts of dramatic changes in the world of food production in general and food animal husbandry in particular. These changes due to criticisms of modern animal production from the society, the founding of WTO, concerns with antibiotic use in food animals, animal welfare demands, food safety break-downs, the enlargement of the EU, etc. bring the intentions and the objectives of ISAH into the limelight of the current public discussions about the way of keeping animals for food production.

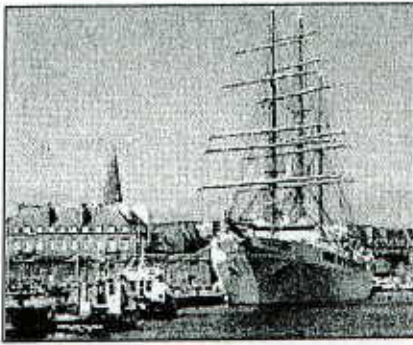
We think that it is high time to respond to these changes and new demands of the society and of politicians, which is challenge and opportunity at the same time. We want to and will focus on the opportunities for ISAH that these changes provide: we could and should develop ISAH into a scientific society that deals with animal health instead of just animal hygiene. **Animal health** in food animal populations as the major precondition for producing high-quality and safe (= wholesome) food products of animal origin, and is the overall aim of all of us; **animal hygiene** is the tool to achieve and maintain a high animal health status for the food animal herds and

flocks we need to produce wholesome food. A strong indicator for the appropriateness of such a change in the scope of ISAH is that even the long-standing and well-established O.I.E. (Office International des Epizooties) has only recently adopted a new name. It is now named the "**World Organization of Animal Health**", which is due to the fact that the O.I.E. has declared to extend its scope from just notifiable diseases to **animal health, animal welfare and food safety**.

Should we not think about a similar extension of our scope and name?

However, these thoughts are just to announce that we will have an Email-based discussion forum with all EB and EEB members in the next few months prior to our in-between ISAH meeting in Saint-Malo in October this year. I do not want to pre-determine the outcome of this E-mail-discussion. What I want to do with this announcement is: every ISAH member is asked to contact her or his country representative for ISAH, who is by definition an EEB member, to share with her or him thoughts about potential changes in the structure and the activities of ISAH: should we found a "real" society with a standing president, a permanently working office, and so on?

Think twice about the above thoughts and help us with triggering a constructive and vivid discussion that could lead to proposals of the EB and the EEB, which will have a meeting on October 14, 2004, to prepare a resolution on the future of ISAH, which will be voted on at a general meeting of the ISAH members attending the 2005 ISAH meeting in Warsaw.



The « In-between Congress » of the ISAH

The congress is entitled: "Animal Production in Europe:
the way forward in a changing world"
It will take place next October in St-Malo, Brittany, France

1- Scientific programme

Monday 11th October : General item : Animal production and Society

MORNING

- Foreword/welcome : Dr F. Madec, chairman
- Welcome from the president of the ISAH : Prof. A. Krynski - Poland
- an official from France
- Livestock sector in Europe : the political standpoint : Dr Schwabenbauer - Germany

Plenary scientific session: Chairperson: P. VANNIER - France

- EU regulations / environment J. Beck - Germany
- EU regulations / Egg production H. Windhorst - Germany
- Public perception K. Jensen - Denmark
- Ethics and livestock production M. Marie - France
- Precision livestock farming D. Berckmans - Belgium

AFTERNOON

Parallel sessions

- Animal Welfare, Focus on transport / slaughter / euthanasia Chairpersons: B. Algers - Sweden
X. Fernandez, France
- Integration of animal farming systems in the environment Chairpersons : R. Geers - Belgium
M. Bonneau - France

Tuesday 12th October item : Animal Health

MORNING

Plenary scientific session : Chairperson : P. RAFAI – Hungary

- OIE role B. Vallat - Director General
- Definition health / disease S. Gunnarsson - Sweden
- Biotechnologies of reproduction and risks of disease spreading M. Thibier - France

Parallel sessions

- Tools and strategies for fighting diseases Chairperson : H. Seegers - France
- Genetic resistance to diseases Chairperson : F. Lantier - France
- Air Quality in animal houses Chairperson : J. Hartung - Germany

AFTERNOON

Parallel sessions

- Animal Nutrition and Health Chairpersons : M. Tielen - The Netherlands
A. Aumaitre - France
- Biosecurity of effluents, Hygiene, Cleaning Chairpersons : J. Martinez – France
R. Böhm - Germany
- Influenza : a farm animal disease and a zoonosis Chairperson : M. Pensaert - Belgium

Special Plenary session

- Biosecurity and hygiene in a situation of crisis

MORNING

Plenary scientifique session : Chairperson : T. BLAHA - Germany

- **Do we need meat? Meat consumption, where does it go to?** I.U. Leonhäuser - Germany
- **Safety and feeding value of GMO's** A. Aumaitre - France
- **Changing structures in animal production : consequences for animal health and food safety** T. Blaha - Germany

Parallel sessions

- **Antibiotics / Use / Resistance**
- **Foodborne diseases – Zoonosis**
- **Free Communications**

Chairperson : P. Sanders - France
 Chairperson : P. Colin - France
 Chairperson : A. Aland - Estonia

AFTERNOON

Parallel sessions - Quality in food chains

- **Pork**
- **Dairy**
- **Poultry and Fish**

Take Home Messages

Closure

End of the congress

Chairperson : T. Blaha - Germany
 Chairperson : J.T. Sorensen - Denmark
 Chairperson : G. Salvat – France
 T. Blaha - Germany
 F. Madec – France

2- Practical Points

Venue : Palais du Grand Large - 35400 Saint Malo - Brittany – France

Language: English will be the language of the congress.

How to get to Saint Malo

By plane: International Rennes Airport (45 min by car to St-Malo) <http://www.rennes.aeroport.fr>

Dinard / Pleurtuit Airport. Links from London. Transfer to Saint-Malo center (10 km) - Phone : +33 2 99 46 18 46

By train: TGV Paris-Rennes (2 hours). Then Rennes-St-Malo (45 min). <http://www.sncf.com>

By car: Four hours by motorway from Paris (Direction Rennes).

Tourist Information: Office du Tourisme – Esplanade Saint Vincent – F35400 Saint-Malo Phone +33 2 99 56 64 48 – Fax : +33 2 99 56 67 00

Registration: Deadline for registration : 15th July 2004. After 15th July 2004, registrations will be possible if available.

Congress fees (All fees include Value Added Taxes) Full Registration Fee (11-12-13 October 2004): 538, 20 euros - Daily Registration Fee : 239,20 euros - The following items are included in the registration fees:- participation to the conference - proceedings including oral communications and posters - lunches and coffee breaks - participation to the dinner of 12 October

Payment: Payment must be made in Euro to the order of: ZOOPOLE développement – ISPAIA - BP 7, F-22440 PLOUFRAGAN - Bank : C.C.M.

PLOUFRAGAN Compagnie financiere de credit mutuel de Bretagne - Brest France - Bank code : 15589 - Counter code : 22869 - Account number : 01 465 645 044 - Key RIB : 08 - Swift : CMBRFR2BXXX - IBAN : FR76 1558 9228 6901 4656 4504 408 - Intra-Community VAT: FR0439047443500018

Cancellation of participation: If notice of cancellation is received by electronic and surface mail or fax before September 10th, 2004 then preregistered participants will have their paid fee's refunded, less 40 €. After September 10th, 2004 no refund can be expected

Accommodation: The Palais du Grand Large - Saint Malo has been assigned responsibility by the organisation committee for the management of the participants hotel reservations. A number of rooms has been reserved in hotels close to the conference place at special conference rates, up to 25% below the public rate. Hotel accommodation will be booked on a first-come-first served basis on only open the receipt of the accommodation form with the deposit and reservation fees. A confirmation letter will be sent to the participant, including the location of the hotel. "Accommodation Form" online - Contact : congres@pjl-congres.com

General Secretariat: Genevieve CLEMENT - ISPAIA - ZOOPOLE développement- BP 7 - 22440 Ploufragan-France, Phone: +33 (0)2 96 78 61 30- Fax: +33 (0)2 96 78 61 31-Mail: isah2004@zoopole.asso.fr



Information about the XIIth ISAH congress 5-9 Sept. 2005 Warsaw, Poland.

The venue of the congress will be Warsaw Agricultural University Campus located in district Ursynow in Warsaw.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS :

Organizing Committee of XIIth ISAH Congress
Division of Animal and Environment Hygiene
e-mail address : zoo_kbsz@alpha.sggw.waw.pl
and isah2005@alpha.sggw.waw.pl
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web site : www.sggw.waw.pl/~isah2005

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr hab. Bogdan Debski - Warsaw Agricultural University
Prof. Dr hab. Zbigniew Dobrzanski - Agricultural University in Wroclaw
Prof. Dr hab. Eugeniusz Herbut - National Research Institute of Animal
Production in Balice
Prof. Dr hab. Andrzej Krynski - Warsaw Agricultural University
Prof. Dr hab. Zygmunt Pejsak - National Veterinary Research Institute, Pulawy
Prof. Dr hab. Eligiusz Rokicki - Warsaw Agricultural University

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language is English.

IMPORTANT DATES

Second announcement including application form will be sent by email and placed on our website before 30 October 2004.

Deadline for abstract submission –
31 December 2004.

Deadline for papers and reduced registration fee – 30 April 2005.

ACCOMMODATION

All accommodation is available in Agricultural University Campus in Warsaw: at the University hotel and dormitories.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information concerning registration fee, accommodation costs, costs of program for accompanying persons, support for young scientists will be continuously placed on the congress website.

Full set of information will be sent to you by email and also placed on congress website after 15 October 2004 (after getting the opinion about congress program from EB).

On the next page of the Newsletter you can find the preliminary scientific program of XIIth ISAH Congress 5-9.09.2005 Warsaw.



Global conference on animal welfare OIE, Paris, 23-25/02

OIE'S RULES

The OIE (Office International des Epizooties) was created in 1924 and totalled 166 Members countries. The OIE initially worked for transparency in the world wide health situation based on incontestable diagnostic methods and scientific knowledge. This mission which is still a priority develops standards for use by its members to protect from disease incursion. This responsibility was extended when the OIE was recognised as a reference organisation by the world trade organisation (WTO) for guaranteeing the sanitary safety of world trade in animals and animals products, whilst avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers. In this field, the OIE's standard-setting activities are also focused on eliminating hazards existing prior to slaughter of animals or the primary processing of their products that could be a risk for consumers. Due to close relationships between animal health and animal welfare, the OIE should also become the international reference organisation in the field of animal protection and thus the leader organisation for animal welfare. At the request of its members countries the OIE have been mandated to prepare the basis for an international guide to good practice for animals. Since 2001, ad hoc international expert groups were initiated, have identified a prioritised work plan and have worked on recommendations. The challenge for the OIE is now to maintain this momentum and harness the support of all OIE members countries and stakeholders on the animal welfare. A commitment to consultation with, and communication to, all interested parties is considered to be critical to success. In recognition of the need to approach this new area of activity, the OIE plan to work in a discipline manner, to involve non-governmental organisation having a broad representation and to make use of all available expertise and resources, including those from academia, the research community, industry and other relevant stakeholders. Prof. Blaha and Prof. Algers, two members of the ISAH's Executive Board attended the meeting.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The first session was focused on the OIE activities, the historical and scientific background, the process for elaboration of recommendations and guidelines, and the prospects for the future. The role of veterinarian was pointed out by J. Edwards (World Veterinary Association, DK), as a challenge to actively participate and contribute to the advancement of animal welfare. The promotion of training on animal welfare and ethology appeared essential to be included in basic veterinary education (illustrated by L. Estol). A talk on trade concerns showed that some segments of the producer community in US (Food Marketing Institute, National Council of Chain Restaurants) have been working actively on animal welfare assurance systems. Guidelines are proposed to supplier organisations and across the retail sector, based on the minimum standards of the industry and on voluntary step. Consumers concerns was illustrated by an Italian speaker suggesting three approaches of consumers towards the animal

welfare : anthropocentric (human), biocentric (animal) or pathocentric (health). Information on the full product history and details of the product process are required, as suitable standards to ascertain whether or not food is safe. Differences between consumers over the world appears clearly, according to the approach towards the animal welfare. Consumers can be more sensitive to the final objective of guarantee safety food associated with animal welfare, rather than be interested to know how the animals are raised. The conferences on the perspectives on animal welfare from developing countries (Asia, Africa, south America) pointed out clearly gaps for the implementation of rules for the prevention of suffering and cruelty to animals, illustrated by slides on overloaded and malnourished animals and rough slaughter conditions. This state is linked to the heritage of cultural and religious traditions (practises or misinterpretation of injections), the lack of mechanisation and the use of animals as being the backbone of agriculture. Though governments have taken initiative to establish animal welfare boards and to enact laws, the main problem is the financial constraint and lack of personnel for the implementation of the rules.

During the general discussion, the main points raised were :

- in the world context the OIE' standard guidelines need to take into account the economical, religious and social context of the countries. This shows also that the animal welfare is not only a research concern.
- the guidelines should be considered as directed principles; the main areas actually considered are the transport, the slaughter and control procedures.
- the guidelines are adopted by consensus.
- the guidelines on animal welfare should differ from the WTO' ones

The topic of the second session was the applied science to animal welfare. In a first talk D. Fraser (University of British Columbia, Canada) pointed out that people involved in developing animal welfare standards generally agree that the standards should be science-based, but the question is what is involved in incorporating science into animal welfare standards. Within society, three different ethic views can be distinguished: biological functioning (health, production traits), affective states of animals (mental states) or natural living. Although these three views overlap considerably, they involve different areas of emphasis and sometimes lead to different conclusions. Nevertheless these three views can also be incorporated into the scientific work by scientists. These views have also influenced mentioned animal welfare standards. D. Fraser focused that with a wide variety of standards claiming to ensure animal welfare, there is a risk of confusion and disillusion in public. This risk can be avoided by standards striking a defensive balance among the three elements. The following speakers have shown scientific approaches on different topics including environment design, feeding management, handling and transport, pain, fear and distress. In a second step areas of

practical application were developed by each ad hoc experts groups of the OIE, working on the issues relating to slaughter for human consumption, to killing for disease control purposes, to land transportation, to aquaculture, and finally the issues between profit and protection. Each group has described a first draft for guidelines based on scientific knowledge but also including historic, religious and cultural aspects of animal welfare standards. In all case the role of education was pointed out as a key for the animal welfare issue and to assess relevant skills and competency of personal.

The last session was devoted to the way forward, with two talks, the first one on the cultural , religious and ethical issues. In a second one the importance of a number of critical factors and the different roles that can be played by legislation, scientific guidelines and codified standards, has been considered. This includes the role of animal welfare advocacy organisations, of the veterinary profession, of the independent ministerial advisory and national consultative committees, the importance of the animal science, the initial use of voluntary codes and the transition to legislated codes, the pros and cons of public consultation, the outcome-based versus prescriptive legislation, the importance of stakeholder involvement and «ownership», and the rule and potential of quality insurance schemes.

Thereafter syndicate groups were built on topics arising from earlier conference discussions. Each group discussed about proposals for the way forward. There were groups on transport (sea, land), on slaughter (for disease control, for human consumption), on the role of veterinarian, on the communication challenges in animal welfare and on the animal research welfare. A report of each syndicate groups was presented at the end of the session.

Concerning the group on Research (36 persons), four points were pointed out :

- research should focus on areas of concerns identified by national , international multidisciplinary publications from databases available from different organisations involved in the animal welfare issue (academic structures or association such as ISAE, EAAP and ISAH).
- welfare has to be considered as a value issue and needs to be validated by objective indicators for assessing welfare and critical points in systems to message. ?
- animal welfare needs to be accepted as multidisciplinary science including basic and applied research

The review for all groups pointed out the following items :

- the OIE's initiative needs to be carried out in collaboration with all the stakeholders (NGO, academic or professional organisations) involved in the animal welfare concerns and through their participation to expert groups and databases.
- training and education need to be widespread
- the OIE' role is recognised as leader for the implementation of guidelines, controls and responsibility levels on welfare concerns in the WTO context, .
- Animal welfare is not only a research question, but it also needs a holistic approach.

CONCLUSIONS

The way forward for the OIE means to reach the following :

- give more visibility and explain their strategy
- enhance their leadership and harness resources
- include the stakeholder role and their contribution :
 - develop links with international organisations
 - support for science based approach

Marie-Christine Salaün, INRA, France

Thomas Blaha, TIHO HANOVER, Germany

A book on FMD, giving updated informations

Foot and Mouth Disease: Facing the New Dilemmas

Co-ordinated by G.R. Thomson.
OIE, 12 rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France

FMD is endemic in many countries where it has a considerable impact on animal welfare and productivity. Beyond this important statement, the persistence of FMD virus activity constitutes a permanent threat to countries that have obtained a FMD free status. The huge technical efforts and expenses being directed at the acquisition of this status can fall to pieces within a short time if the virus is re-introduced to those free countries. The rather unexpected outbreaks of FMD in the EU and also in other places sound like a call to all professionals and authorities involved in the livestock sector to realize that nothing is definitely guaranteed in this field. The OIE (Office International des Epizooties) world organisation for animal health has edited this book - a special issue of its scientific journal on the basis of numerous contributions from scientific experts covering the different sides of the problem and giving their opinion on the subject. In the preface, Dr. Vallat, Director-General of OIE, does not hesitate to prepare the reader for the fact that the experts' views do not always converge on technical aspects thus leaving space for debate in the scientific community. Obviously OIE has a pivotal role among the scientific community with the main goal of achieving good overall animal health and thereby a safe international trade of animal and animal-derived products. The book is intended to provide, and it does indeed provide, up-to-date information on FMD. The major aspects of the subject are covered in the 11 sections of the book (42 chapters, 900 pages).

- The first section deals with the world status regarding FMD and the different approaches to control and eradicate the disease. In order to eradicate FMD in South-America, the authors place their hope on high levels of vaccination and control animal movements. Such a programme seems to be more difficult to handle in other parts of the world where diverse limiting factors are found including the weakness of the national veterinary services. A better understanding of the epidemiology of the disease is needed in some other places like South-East Asia to develop an adequate strategy. In Europe despite several incursions of the virus the disease has been eradicated in every case. The situation in the

central Asian Republics and the Causasian region needs attention and action to avoid FMD becoming endemic.

- The usefulness and the structure of an animal health emergency management system are presented by authors from the USA. Undoubtedly emergency preparedness and management are key elements to be considered.
- An important section (5 chapters) gives an exhaustive view of the clinical aspects of FMD. The main cloven-hoofed animal species are illustrated with pictures showing the macroscopic lesions. It must be here mentioned that whereas obvious external symptoms and lesions are common in unvaccinated cattle and pigs, in adult sheep and goats the disease can be mild and the infection not apparent. Such "healthy" but potential "seeder" animals can play a most important role in disease spreading through trade. The authors stress the need to not only base diagnosis on clinical signs but to also use laboratory tests in control programmes. A specific paper deals with the FMD virus carrier state of animals, and it emphasis the tests recently made available.
- An entire section is devoted to the response emergencies. Recent examples of successful use of vaccination to help FMD control are given. It is recent mentioned that effective vaccines able to induce good protection within one week are available. It is additionally stated that adequate vaccination must not impair virus circulation detection since there are now commercial laboratory tests able to distinguish vaccinated from infected herds. However the authors insists on the fact that the slaughter of infected or at-risk herds in-contact or in close vicinity with infected animals should be the primary means for FMD control as long as they are detected at an early stage. But vaccination must be seriously considered as a second line of defence specifically when there are doubts on the efficiency of slaughter alone. FMD is mainly spread by trade/movements of infected animals but under certain climatic and epidemiological conditions windborne spread can occur.. The

strain of virus and species of infected animal are major determinants of airborne virus emission. Cattle and pigs excrete maximally during the early acute stages of the disease ie around the time when vesicles first appear. In sheep maximum emission occurs for one or two days before the onset of clinical disease. Among susceptible species, the pigs is by far the most potent emitter of airborne virus. The duration of main airborne virus emission varies from 4 to 7 days. Decision-support tools for FMD control including air-borne transmission are presented in a paper.

- A major section deals with vaccines and vaccination. The latest innovations in this field are presented. A promising product utilises an empty viral capsid sub-unit which is delivered to the animals by a live virus vector (an adenovirus). A single injection was found to protect pigs from challenge 7 days after vaccination. In the section, the future of vaccine banks is considered, suggestion is made for potential improvements.
- The economics of FMD is explained in detail by authors from different countries. Obviously depending on the local context the impact changes widely. The cost of the outbreak in the UK in 2001 was estimated with losses to agriculture and the food chain amounting to about 4.7 billions Euros. Businesses directly affected by tourist expenditure are estimated to have lost a similar total amount.
- An interesting part of the book is devoted to the recent FMD crisis and to the lessons learnt with hindsight from those experiences (7 chapters). Obviously, once again, depending on the country, the outcome varies to a large extent. However the need for effective, large-scale operational contingency plans and adequate laboratory diagnostic capacity is unanimously pointed out. The implementation of appropriate animal identification systems and herd localisation recording as well as proper animal movement controls appear as major helps while the use of vaccination will have to be considered as part of disease control. In case of slaughtering the point of carcass disposal has to be addressed in a proper way. In one of the chapters it is mentioned that in the UK 2001 outbreak over 6.5 millions animals were slaughtered and disposed of (over 4 million as a direct result of disease and a further 2.5 on welfare grounds). The role of trade and animal movements was clearly demonstrated in France during the 2001 outbreak. All the farms where infection was detected (in 5 different locations in the country) were epidemiologically related to a single farm. The latter farmer was also a trader and he was involved in import of

sheep. Infected sheep from the UK were found on the farm during the veterinary inspection that immediately followed the first declaration of FMD in the UK. But none of the animals presented clinical evidence of FMD. Some of the imported animals and contact ones had already been transported to other farms. The animals were traced and all pre-emptively slaughtered and destroyed. Infection was retrospectively detected from blood sampled before slaughter. It is worth noting that the importing farm was also an 'animal protection staging post'. Indeed calves from Ireland stayed on the farm before continuing their route to the Netherlands and on the farm they had contact with the imported infected sheep. Those Irish calves contaminated in France by English infected sheep were the source of FMD in the Netherlands.

- Towards the end of the book the farming perspective is presented and the position of representatives of farmers from four EU countries is found. Whereas traceability is desired, there is some fear about eventual constraints that could be imposed on animal trade.
- Conclusion. The numerous outbreaks of FMD and the re-mergence of other epizootics repeatedly show the vulnerability of animal agriculture world-wide. As long as FMD virus remains active in certain parts of the world, the risk of introduction of infected animals into FMD-free zones will remain. This is obviously also true for other diseases. The risk may even increase with the occurrence of large susceptible animal populations, modified livestock breeding practices and above all with the expansion of national and international trade in live animals, and animal products. Finally the greater mobility of people must also be kept in mind. Biosecurity rules need strong consideration to avoid dissemination of those epidemic diseases. On the other hand veterinary sciences provide the livestock industry with new tools that should help disease control and avoid catastrophes. The book is focused on FMD but the general principles which are mentioned also apply to other epidemic diseases affecting livestock. The document is easy to read for non-veterinarians. Each chapter has a summary in three languages (English, Spanish and French). The book needs a place of choice not only in Veterinary Schools. It is a source of most relevant knowledge about FMD and about the general principles related to spreading disease of livestock that can be found.

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Reviewed by F. MADEC**



72nd General session of OIE : world organisation for animal health.

Paris 23-28 May 2004

Like each year the general session was held in Paris and more than 600 official delegates attended. They came from the member countries (OIE has currently 167 member countries throughout the world). OIE is an intergovernmental organisation that specializes in animal health recordings through the National Veterinary Services. Another very important task of OIE is to establish standards about all those issues related to animal health (diagnostic tests, sanitary certificates ...). The goal is to maintain animal health thus avoiding disease spreading through trade and other means. OIE (like IPPC and Codex Alimentarius) is a standard-setting organisation referenced in the SPS agreement of the World Trade organisation. It provides scientific expertise to WTO in its field of competence. The latter field was extended in the recent years to animal welfare and to food safety, two critical issues which may be cause of disputes in world trade.

It is out of question to exhaustively report here on the four-day meeting where plenary and parallel sessions were scheduled from 8h30 until 19h00 each day. Only a few points of the agenda are summarized.

- An important point is always the director general's report. Dr. Vallat spoke about domestic affairs especially some new equipments and some restructuring in order to improve efficacy of certain departments. He mentioned the new mandates of the OIE (animal welfare and food safety) and due to all the missions of the official veterinary services in the member countries, he suggested to recognize the latter as an "international public wealth". He suggested to use the vocable to place the veterinary services in a better position to get more support from the political authorities. Regarding animal welfare, he told a word about the international

conference held in Paris last February⁽¹⁾. About 400 people attended this conference. It was prepared by one of the three working groups. OIE has currently 2 other working groups, beside animal welfare group: the wild fauna and the food safety groups. After having listed the main activities of the different OIE committees and commissions, he came to the cooperation agreements signed between OIE and diverse organisations. Several of them are professional associations. Among other agreements signed in 2003, the followings can be noticed: FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale), IDF (International Dairy Federation) and IMS (International Meat Secretariat). In 2002 the IFAH (International Federation for Animal Health) and the WVA (World Veterinary Association) signed the agreement. In the coming years we may also think of such an agreement between OIE and ISAH. There is no doubt that ISAH could properly provide OIE with relevant knowledge and also with recognized scientists in certain areas.

- Beside the 3 working groups, the OIE has 14 so-called "ad hoc" groups. Four of these groups relate to animal welfare : animal transport (on ground and water), euthanasia and slaughter, respectively. Among other topics, can be mentioned BSE, epidemiology, the preparation of a manual on "risk analysis", Avian Flu ...
- During the general session, like usually, we had scientific lectures. One was about "Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases: challenges and opportunities". It was given by Dr Lonnie KING (Michigan Univ., USA).

⁽¹⁾ The ISAH was represented at the conference by T. Blaha and Bo Algers

The author listed the factors that can combine to make a disease emerge or re-emerge. Massive Urbanisation is one of the factors that favor infections whereas changing climate and ecosystems, pollutions, intensive travel and commerce are factors involved in emergence.

A second lecture, given by Luis Barcos (Argentina), dealt with: "animal identification and traceability". Different systems are currently in place in the OIE member states. There is a real need for harmonization and OIE is asked to take part in this. The Codex Commission is also due to work on the question. In this respect OIE should take care of the animals until slaughter and the Codex should take over downstream, avoiding any rupture in the chain.

- An important part of the general session was devoted to business meetings of the regional OIE commissions. Different issues were addressed, and recommendations were proposed regarding notifiable diseases, rinder pest and rabies in particular.
- Another important part dealt with reports related to the different technical and scientific commissions of OIE like that on "the Biological standards". The latter mainly concerns the reference laboratories and collaborative centres and also the novelties in terms of diagnostic tests. In this respect practical aspects were mentioned. Can be noticed here, among others, an ELISA test for equine piroplasmosis infection detection and one for the caprine arthritis-encephalitis and the Maedi-Visna. The scientific commission about "Animal health" had a main topic on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). It came out that the situation regarding Type A Viruses of FMD remains critical in the Middle-East area due to the virus variants which are circulating and to the variable protection given by the currently used vaccines. Another point

of importance was the isolation of FMD virus of Type SAT2 in North Africa. The commission on "health standards for aquatic animals" has been very active last year and produced several reports including zoosanitary certificates proposals for international trade, recommendations for disinfection in aquaculture etc The aquatic manual and the aquatic code are being updated. The commission on "wild life" drew attention on African Swine Fever (Africa), on Avian Flu (Asia), FMD (Asia, Africa) Rift Valley Fever (Africa), Bovine Tuberculosis (North America, Africa), Bovine Brucellosis (Africa, North America), Rabies (Africa). All these infections of wild animals are a potential threat to domestic animals and for some to human as well. A comment was pointed out about West Nile disease. The virus is spreading in North America (USA and Canada) giving the most severe epidemics of meningoencephalitis due to West Nile virus never seen on the continent. In February 2004, 9122 human cases of infection (leading to 223 death) were reported in the USA especially in 4 states (Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas). In Canada the virus seems to confine to the south of the country. Several other items not reported here were on the agenda of the General meeting. Useful informations can be found on the public website of OIE. In particular several tables and maps give the situation of the member countries regarding the main diseases. Among these the BSE situation has a place of choice (OIE website : www.oie.int).

Once again, I must outline the perfect organisation of the meeting with simultaneous translation into several languages of the lectures and debates.

Numerous documents were given to the delegates.

Dr. F. Madec
28 May 2004



After BSE

A future for the European Livestock sector

P. Cunningham et al, 2003, EAAP scientific series N° 108

Europe faced a major crisis over the BSE phenomenon. In addition to affecting cattle breeders and beef producers, the BSE crisis involved many other sectors of society. The long term effect and the ultimate impact of BSE on human society is still not fully clear and future livestock production and animal health practices are still being debated.

The EAAP (European Association for Animal Production) proposed therefore to prepare a comprehensive report on BSE which draws upon the deep strengths of the association in the livestock sector in all its components. The aim of the report was not to defend the sectional interests of animal production. Rather it seeks to provide light for those in all sectors of society who have to make decisions on this difficult topic and in the future beware of other eventual emergencies. A working group was built and its composition was established by EAAP to produce the report along with livestock scientists but also with distinguished experts from other sectors such as consumer and social concerns, trade, economics, health.

The outcome is a balanced, objective and forward-looking report which seeks to provide new perspectives and some options for the future, based upon a full understanding of the past.

The book begins with the BSE epidemics, starting in the UK and spreading to other countries. The costs of the epidemics are reported as well as those aspects of regulations, and other practical points like Meat and Bone Meal issue. In chapter 2 the changing context is analysed through the consumer attitude, the effect of food scares, the increasing concentration of the companies in the processing and retailing sector. The farmer side is also considered with a lot of tables and other illustrations. In this section the "competitiveness" of the prevailing farming systems and enterprises is assessed. Chapter 3 deals with the future. Ethical aspects, market structure and other subjects related to the food chain are detailed. Keywords like transparency and accountability, traceability are given consideration. The book ends with a series of conclusions where the authors show how the European livestock sector can respond to the new challenges ahead of us.

Dr F. MADEC

References :

P. Cunningham et al, 2003, 104 pages
After BSE – a future for the European livestock sector Wageningen Academic Publishers, NL

Website:

www.wageningenAcademic.com/bookshop

Announcements

Beside the above cited 2 major events concerning directly the ISAH (St-Malo Oct. 2004 and Warsaw Sept. 2005), please find here other meetings

1 - Ramiran 2004

11th international Conference of the FAO ESCORENA network on Recycling of Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial residues en agriculture.

Sustainable Organic Waste Management for Environmental Protection and Food Safety

MURCIA (SPAIN) : 7-10 October 2004 ; Organised by CEBAS-CSIC ; In collaboration with UMH

Presentation

On behalf of the RAMIRAN network we are pleased to announce the next Network Conference which will be held on October 7-10, 2004 in MURCIA, Spain.

Themes

- Gaseous emissions and odours
- Waste contaminants lifecycle: metals, organic compounds, pathogens, xenobiotics
- Safety of organic waste treatments: composting, anaerobic digestion, physical treatments
- Nutrient cycling in plant-soil systems
- Waste management strategies
- Waste contaminants entering the food chain

Organising committee

Network coordinator : Jose Martinez, CEMAGREF

Conference Organiser : M^a Pilar Bernal, CEBAS-CSIC

Conference secretary : Raúl Moral, UMH

Members : Miguel A. Sánchez-Monedero, CEBAS-CSIC ; Concepción Paredes, UMH ; Rafael Clemente, CEBAS-CSIC ; M^a Dolores Pérez-Murcia, UMH ; Antonia Garcíá, CEBAS-CSIC ; Aurelia Pérez-Espinosa, UMH ; M^a Angeles Bustamante, UMH

Address

Ramiran 2001 (Attn. Dr. M.P. Bernal). CEBAS-CSIC. Campus Universitario de Espinardo ; Apartado de Correos 4195 ; 30080 Murcia, Spain ; Tel: +34 968 396200 ; Fax: +34 968 396213 ; e-mail: ramiran04@cebas.csic.es

Organisation

The meeting will consist of formal scientific sessions with invited and selected oral presentations, poster sessions and scientific excursions.

Proceedings

Selected papers from oral presentations and posters will be published in the journal *Bioresource Technology*, after being accepted by the Scientific Committee and refereed by independent scientists.

Language : The official symposium language will be English.

Information about Murcia

- Murcia is located in the Southeast of Spain and its population exceeds 350,000 inhabitants. It is surrounded by a fertile valley near the Mediterranean sea.
- The city is dynamic and undergoing an economic expansion based on tourism and the agroindustry, a fact which makes the city the ideal choice for the Meeting. Murcia has a wide variety of monuments and museums related to its history. Among them, it is worth mentioning the gothic and baroque façade, and the casino from the XIX century.
- Murcia enjoys a pleasant and warm climate all the year, with an average annual temperature of 18°C and more than 3,000 hours of sunlight per year. It also enjoys a pleasant autumn, making it an ideal city for having a pleasant evening in the many cafes and terraces.
- The gastronomy of Murcia is well known in Spain, and it is very easy to eat well in this region. The basic ingredients of the dishes are excellent and the result is an imaginative, simple and very tasty cuisine. This is a city to enjoy and everybody feels here at home.
- Welcome to Murcia and to the 11th RAMIRAN Meeting.
- More information is available in : www.murciaturistica.es

Travel

- Alicante Airport is 45 minutes from Murcia and it has a high flight frequency. Murcia and it has a high frequency. Murcia Airport is located close to the Mar Menor, just 30 minutes from the city of Murcia. Both airports have national and international flights.
- By road, Murcia can be accessed from the Northwest using the motorway from Madrid, and from the East via the Mediterranean motorway (which runs from the French Frontier to Andalucía).
- By train, Murcia is well communicated with Madrid and Barcelona, with several daily trains. We will provide more information in following announcements.

Other announcements

2-18th Congress of the International Pig Veterinary Society (IPVS), Hamburg, Germany June 27-July1, 2004

The IPVS is organizing such a congress every 2 years. The last one took place in Ames (USA). It is the only global meeting of veterinarians specialized in the veterinary aspects of swine diseases. The title of the congress is "Healthy pigs for wholesome pork". Prof. T. Blaha (who is member of the ISAH's Executive Board) is one of the key-organizers of this important event. Usually between 1500 and 2000 people are attending the IPVS congress!

Contact eg for proceedings...: www.ipvs.de

3-55th EAAP annual meeting (05-08 Sept. 2004)

It will be held in Slovenia: Ljubljana-Bled (EAAP: European Association for Animal Production)

Information: Prof. Franc Habe: e mail: franc.habe@bfro.uni-lj.si

The programme of "Management and Health" commission has sessions on animal welfare, on "sustainable aquaculture", on ethics in animal agriculture, respectively. The complete programme can be found at the website of the congress: www.bfro.uni-lj.si

In association with the EAAP meeting a workshop will be organized on "Biology of lactation" and the main topic will be "Mammary gland development and cancer".

4-8th World Rabbit Congress

It will take place in Mexico (Puebla City) from 7 to 10 sept. 2004.

Informations : Carlos M. Becerril, Chairman

5-35th congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine

Torino, ITALY: 8-11 Sept. 2004-06-04 Info.: Prof. Marco Galloni, Univ. Torino

e-mail : marco.galloni@unito.it

6-7th World Buffalo Congress.

It will be held in Manila, The Philippines. 20-23 Oct. 2004

Website : www.pcc.da.gov.ph

7-56th EAAP annual meeting

Uppsala, SWEDEN, 5-8 June 2005

Website : <http://www-conference.slu.se/EAAP2005/>