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China, Peoples Republic of

Livestock and Products

China Confirms Outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease 2005

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Report Highlights:

For the first time in decades, China acknowledged an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and officially informed the OIE, the global animal health organization. China's notifying the OIE of this disease is a notable development since unofficial reports indicate FMD existed for years. According to the report, 223 dairy cows were affected or exposed (all subsequently slaughtered) in Shandong and Jiangsu provinces. Additionally, AQSIQ immediately suspended exports of even-toed ungulates (pigs, cattle, etc.). FAS Beijing will submit a separate GAIN report assessing the market impact, if any, of China's FMD announcement.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Beijing [CH1]
[CH]

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Executive Summary

On May 14, 2005, AQSIQ sent an urgent notification to FAS Beijing to notify that China had 32 cases of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in dairy cows during April 2005. Seventeen cases occurred in Daiyue District of Tai'an City, Shandong Province. The other 15 cases occurred in Huishan District of Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province. All 223 dairy cows, affected or exposed to the disease, have been culled. The National FMD Reference Lab at Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, which is part of the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), confirmed all the cases are the virus Asia 1 FMD. The lab is the only FMD reference lab in China.

According to the official report, Shandong and Jiangsu provinces took immediate measures to stamp out the disease. The areas within a radius of 3 kilometers of the outbreaks were isolated and animal movements were strictly controlled. The FMD-affected areas have been disinfected. All animals that are susceptible to FMD in the threatened areas have been quarantined. Additionally, at the same time, AQSIQ immediately suspended exports of artiodactyls products from the affected areas. The Chinese Government declared the disease under control and the source of the FMD cases is under investigation.

The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) also reported the outbreaks to the OIE. This is a notable development since FMD has been unofficially reported (as disease number 5) in China for years. Whether or not China is moving towards greater transparency of animal disease reporting to the OIE, and other international bodies, remains unclear.

Further, it is uncertain what if any market impact this official announcement will have on China's cattle production and trade of bovine products. FAS Beijing will submit a separate report providing additional analysis. From a veterinary standpoint, China's request to "regionalize" the FMD affected areas is also notable.

The following is post's translation of AQSIQ and OIE notifications.

Translation of AQSIQ's notification

(Urgent)

(Unofficial Translation)

May 13, 2005

*Embassy of the United States of America
Beijing*

Re: Urgent Notification of Food and Mouth Disease Outbreaks in Shandong and Jiangsu Provinces in China

This urgent notification of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China is to notify the U.S. Embassy of some outbreaks of the foot and mouth disease (FMD), Asia 1 FMD, in Shandong and Jiangsu Provinces in China.

According to the report of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), MOA received a report from Shandong Province on April 24, 2005 that a dairy farm in Daiyue District of Tai'an City had FMD. There were 17 cases out of 23 dairy cows of the same herd. MOA received

another report from Jiangsu province also on April 24, 2005 that there were 15 FMD cases out of 168 dairy cows of the same herd in Huishan District of Wuxi City.

The National FMD Reference Lab confirmed the above-mentioned cases as Asia 1 FMD. Shandong and Jiangsu provinces have taken urgent measures to stamp out the disease. The areas within a radius of 3 kilometers of the outbreaks are isolated. Movement of animals is strictly controlled. All FMD affected cows and the exposed cows of the same herds have been culled. The FMD affected points or areas have been strictly disinfected. All animals that are susceptible to FMD in the affected areas have been urgently quarantined. The disease is now under control in the two provinces. The source of the FMD cases is under investigation.

AQSIQ has notified various CIQ offices to strengthen their supervision on the production and processing of export meat products. AQSIQ, at the same time, immediately suspended exports of artiodactyls products from the affected areas (except the processed animal products treated with a central heat temperature above 70 degrees centigrade at least for 30 minutes or other processed animal products within relevant OIE standards, such as cooked meat products, meat and bone meal, blue wet leather, blue dry leather, wool top, washed hair, carbide wool, salted casings, etc.).

After the outbreaks of FMD, the Chinese Government has taken strict measures. The disease is now under control. AQSIQ thereby hopes that the U.S. Government would adopt the principle of regionalization, so as not to restrict imports of animals or animal products from non-affected areas.

AQSIQ requests the U.S. Embassy report this to the relevant U.S. government agency. AQSIQ hopes that the U.S. authority would accept the suggestion of the Chinese side based on the principle of adopting a scientific and practical attitude and the principal of WTO/SPS quarantine measures to minimize impacts of trade. We would like to cooperate closely with the responsible government agencies of various countries and strengthen information exchanges and communication. AQSIQ requests the U.S. Embassy continue to play as a bridge to link and promote bilateral information exchanges and technical cooperation.

AQSIQ would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAS office at the U.S. Embassy for its long historical support for AQSIQ's work.

General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
The People's Republic of China

CC: The Chinese Embassies to various countries
(End of the translation)

**OIE's information based on MOA's notification
Foot and mouth disease in the People's Republic of China**

Information received on May 13, 2005 from Dr. Jia Youling, Director General, Veterinary Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing.

Report date: 13 May 2005.

Two outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (due to virus type Asia 1) were reported in the eastern part of the country.

Location of the outbreaks:

- Huishan district, Wuxi city, Jiangsu province;
- Daiyue district, Tai'an city, Shandong province.

Date of start of the event: 24 April 2005.

Estimated date of primary infection: 18 April 2005.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 12 May 2005.

Total number of susceptible animals in the outbreaks: 223 head of cattle.

Total number of cases: 32 (no deaths).

Total number of animals destroyed: 223.

Source of agent / origin of infection: under investigation.

Control measures:

- stamping out;
- ring vaccination;
- quarantine;
- movement control inside the country;
- zoning.

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(End of the report)