



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 5/27/2005

GAIN Report Number: CH5043

China, Peoples Republic of

Livestock and Products

More Outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease in China

2005

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Report Highlights:

After China reported to the OIE Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Shandong and Jiansu Provinces two weeks ago, new FMD outbreaks were reported in Xinjiang, Hebei Province and Beijing. A total of 4,383 infected cattle were culled. The Chinese Government claimed that all the FMD-affected areas have been disinfected. Thus far, the Chinese beef market has not been significantly impacted--in part due to China's quick measures to eradicate the disease after the outbreaks. The Chinese Government has urged other countries to regionalize for beef trade. To date, there have been no reports of meat product quarantine actions from China's trading partners.

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

Summary

After China reported to the OIE on May 13, 2005, two outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Shandong and Jiangsu provinces, additional FMD cases have been reported in three other regions in China. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) informed FAS Beijing on May 26 that new cases occurred in Bukesai'er County in Xingjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Yanqing County of Beijing and Sanhe City in Hebei Province. A total of 4,383 cattle were culled, according to MOA's comments to the media. The Chinese Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of MOA held a media briefing for selected media this afternoon on the FMD situation in China.

Out of the total 4,383 culled cattle, 512 were beef cattle for fattening in Sanhe City—located an hour drive to the east of Beijing. Yanqing County is on the northern outskirts of Beijing. In Yanqing, officials culled 252 dairy cattle. The Beijing Dairy Breeding Center, the largest breeding facility in China also in Yanqing, sealed itself off voluntarily to prevent FMD because the outbreak point is only 20-30 km away from the center. Xingjiang, in the Northwest of China, culled 75 cattle. The Government provided subsidies of RMB 4,000-6,000 per culled cattle.

Market Impact of FMD Differs in Each Region of China, But Overall, the Impact is not Significant

Based on information provided by FAS China's three ATO offices and USDA cooperators in China and Hong Kong, coupled with Chinese government agencies and private sector contacts, post assessed the market impact of FMD on beef trade and domestic consumption and supplies. On the whole, China's beef market has not been significantly impacted, though one trade contact said that Shanghai has restricted purchases of domestic beef.

Hong Kong:

According to ATO Hong Kong, the Chinese Government notified Hong Kong of the FMD outbreaks. There is a protocol of disease notification between the Hong Kong Government and the Mainland Government. However, there is no "disease list" for notification, and any notification is based on authorities' judgment. Hong Kong agricultural officials stated that they were notified, but not much earlier than the media reported the cases. To date, there are no changes in quarantine and inspection procedure in Hong Kong.

Mainland China

A May 26 telephone survey of local meat traders in several provinces indicate that most have not yet heard about the FMD outbreaks. So far it seems there has been little impact on beef and meat supplies in South China. Other places are more or less the same as Guangzhou.

However, one trade contact in Shanghai reported that hotels in Shanghai are unable to purchase domestic beef due to new measures being set up by Shanghai City to stop the sale of domestic beef in the city in response to the FMD cases. If this reaction spread beyond Shanghai and significantly more FMD cases occur nationwide, there could be a disruption in domestic meat supplies. Post will closely follow up the development.

The following is post's translation of the official notification from AQSIQ

(Urgent)

(Unofficial Translation)

AQSIQ Foreign Affairs Letter [2005] 371

May 26, 2005

Embassy of the United States of America
Beijing

Re: Urgent Notification of Food and Mouth Disease Outbreaks in Xinjiang, Beijing and Hebei 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 in Beijing of foot and mouth disease outbreaks, FMD-Asia 1 type, in Bukesai'er County in Xinjiang, Yanqing County in Beijing and Sanhe City in Hebei Province in China.

On 25-26 May 2005, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) received reports from the National FMD Reference Lab stating that the cattle test samples from Bukesai'er County in Xinjiang (Uygur Autonomous Region) and Yanqing County of Beijing were confirmed positive for FMD –Asia 1. Also, during FMD surveillance, the Veterinary Bureau of Sanhe City in Hebei Province found that some cattle sample tests showed serology positive for FMD-Asia 1. The bureau immediately sent the sample to the National FMD Reference Lab for confirmation. The reference lab confirmed the disease after testing. The local Government has culled all the affected cattle and the cattle of the same herds based on China's relevant laws and regulations for animal disease prevention. Now the disease has been eliminated in the three places.

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

After the FMD outbreaks, the Chinese Government has taken strict measures according to relevant regulations. Now the disease has been brought under control. AQSIQ thereby hopes that the U.S. Government will adopt the principle of regionalization so as not to restrict imports of animals or animal products from non-affected areas in China. AQSIQ requests that the U.S. Embassy report the cases to the relevant U.S. government authorities. AQSIQ hopes that the U.S. authorities would accept China's reasonable suggestion based on the principle of adopting a scientific and practical attitude and the based on the principal of WTO/SPS quarantine requirements to minimize impacts of trade. We would like to cooperate closely with the responsible government authorities of various countries and strengthen exchanges of information and communication. AQSIQ requests the U.S. Embassy to continue play as a bridge to link and promote bilateral information exchanges and technical cooperation.

AQSIQ avails itself of this opportunity to thank the FAS office at the U.S. Embassy for its historical support to AQSIQ's work.

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

CC: The Chinese Embassies in the United States of America

(End of report)