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Ireland

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Outbreak of Equine Infectious Anaemia in Ireland

2006

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Report Highlights:

The first ever case of Equine Infectious Anaemia has been discovered in Ireland. Irish authorities act quickly to stop its spread.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
London [UK1]
[EI]

The Irish Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF) has confirmed the presence of Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) in a small number of horses in the Meath/Kildare area, the main horse breeding area in Ireland. These are the first cases of EIA recorded in Ireland.

DAF is now investigating the extent of the infection, which in this case, is thought to come from the use of infected equine serum being used in the treatment of another equine disease. DAF is also tracing any horses, which in the past three months, have been on or passed through those farms on which the infected animals were located.

EIA is a virus disease of horses, which can cause a range of symptoms, including death. In view of the potential for mortality and given the high movement of horses throughout the country over the past few months, DAF has advised stud owners/managers and other horse owners to have their horses tested for any evidence of the presence of the disease. It is understood that the general incubation period for the disease is one to three weeks.

DAF is particularly anxious that all reasonable steps should be taken by owners of horses to ensure that DAF can continue to certify horses for export, where such certification is required.

It has advised owners of horses to keep horses away from areas in which there are likely to be large concentrations of horseflies, including wetlands and wooded areas, until such time as they have satisfied themselves that their horses are free of EIA.