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Thailand

Livestock and Products

The Outbreak of Anthrax Disease in Thailand 2000

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Report Highlights:

Anthrax disease was identified recently in the province of Phichit in lower Northern Thailand in goats, sheep, and humans.

Includes PSD changes: No

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report

Bangkok [TH1], TH

SUMMARY

Anthrax disease was identified recently in a limited area in the province of Phichit in lower Northern Thailand in goats, sheep, and humans. Three districts of this province have been temporarily declared anthrax epidemic zones. Almost 400 people have gone to hospitals for treatment or examination. Ministry of Public Health officials said in a June 27 statement that a total of eighteen adults and two children have confirmed anthrax symptoms from eating tainted goat meat. There have been no new reports of the illness since June 19.

The anthrax outbreak was officially reported to be derived from a shipment of 1,500 goats and sheep legally imported from Burma through Mae Sod, Tak Province. However, the question of where the animals were exposed to the disease remains unanswered. Thus far, up to 250 of these animals may have died, but there have been no reports of further deaths since June 12. In response to the outbreak, the Government has banned the movement and slaughter of all animals (including goat, sheep, pigs, and cattle) in Pho Pratabchang, Sam Ngam and Muang districts in Phichit until the disease has run its course. The Ministry of Agriculture is also collecting soil and water samples and is taking measures to ensure that the bacteria is eliminated. Antibiotics are being given to remaining goats and sheep exposed to the disease. Other livestock in surrounding areas are being vaccinated to prevent further outbreaks of the disease.