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Foot and Mouth Disease – Turkey – Thrace Region

Note: Defra's Food and Farming Group International Animal Health (FFG-IAH) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is among those diseases of major concern.

Disease Report

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD type O) was reported in early April 2007 in cattle at Evrese in Cannakale (Thrace Region – European part of Turkey). This new outbreak was reported to be due to the unreported movement of cattle from Adapazari, Sakarya province (where there were two outbreaks of FMD). The disease was then spread locally through the use of common pastures for grazing and cut feed and also through the visits of a local private veterinarian (European Commission, 2007).

Situation Assessment

The veterinary authorities in Turkey maintain a programme of routine vaccination against



Foot and Mouth Disease in Turkey
April 2007

FMD (serotypes O, A and Asia1) which are endemic in Anatolia – the Asian part of Turkey. This outbreak occurred close to earlier outbreaks in sheep and cattle reported to OIE in early 2007 (OIE, 2007a; OIE, 2007b) and outlined in Defra's preliminary outbreak assessment (Defra, 2007). These previous outbreaks occurred in western Turkey (see map) and were caused by FMD types O and A (strain A Iran 05). The location of this latest outbreak of FMD Type O in

European Turkey is also close to the borders of the EU member states of Greece and Bulgaria. This outbreak highlights the potential risks for the spread of FMD into unaffected areas in the region through uncontrolled movements of susceptible animals.

Conclusion

The likelihood of the introduction of FMD by legal trade from Turkey to the UK before and after this outbreak is considered negligible because imports of susceptible animals and their products are banned. The likelihood of FMD virus being introduced by illegal imports remains present and is difficult to estimate. The importance of ensuring that enforcement agencies are vigilant and that a ban on swill feeding is effectively applied is again emphasised. We do not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak but will continue to monitor the situation.

References

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