



International Animal Health Division

International Animal Disease Monitoring

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment



Ref: VITT 1200/FMD – Palestinian Autonomous Territories

Date: 19 February 2007

Foot and Mouth Disease in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories

Note: Defra's International Animal Health Division (IAHD) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is among those diseases of major concern.

Disease Report

The Palestinian Autonomous Territories have reported an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in sheep in Nablus, in the West Bank (see map). The outbreak started in early February 2007 and was confirmed as FMD virus type O on 8 February 2007 (OIE, 2007).

Situation Assessment

FMD is known to be present in the Middle East. The virus has been detected on numerous occasions in 17 countries over the past decade. In most affected countries, serotype O is considered endemic (Shimshony and Economides, 2006).

The last reported outbreak of FMD in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories was in June 2006 (OIE, 2007).

There was an outbreak of FMD in Israel in January 2007 in Hazafon, close to this current case. Furthermore, FMD is considered to be present in Israel and routine annual vaccination of large ruminants (trivalent vaccine – serotype O1, A22 and Asia 1) and small ruminants (monovalent vaccine – serotype O) is carried out. Details of the outbreak in Israel may be seen at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/pdf/fmd-israel030107.pdf>.

EU rules do not allow for importation products of susceptible species or their products from Palestinian Autonomous Territories.



Foot and Mouth Disease in
Palestinian Autonomous Territories
February 2007

Produced by Alice Rogers,
IAHD-IDMU, February 2007

Robinson Projection
Central Meridian: 30.00

AviGEO 8 Development Team
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Source: ESRI Data & Maps CD
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

Conclusion

The likelihood of the introduction of FMD by legal trade from Palestinian Autonomous Territories to the UK is considered to be negligible on the basis of this disease report and an assessment of the current situation.

IAHD does not intend to carry out a full risk assessment of this outbreak at this time but will continue to monitor the situation. This event again emphasises the importance of

implementing and maintaining appropriate measures to control illegal imports and mitigate potential risks.

References

OIE, (2007). Alert messages. Foot and Mouth Disease in Palestinian Auton. Territories. Accessed 16 February 2007. http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/reports/en_imm_0000004851_20070215_180727.pdf

Shimshony, A., Economides, P, (2006). Disease prevention and preparedness for animal health emergencies in the Middle East. OIE Scientific and Technical Review, 25(1), 253-269.