



International Animal Health Division

International Animal Disease Monitoring

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment



Ref: VITT 1200/FMD-Turkey

Date: 1 March 2007

Foot and Mouth Disease – Turkey – an update

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

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD type O) was reported in late February 2007 in Kırklareli (OIE, 2007a). This outbreak occurred close to an earlier outbreak in sheep and cattle reported in January (OIE, 2007b) in Edirne, western Turkey (see map below) that was caused by FMD type A (strain A Iran 05).

Situation Assessment

The situation in Turkey prior to this latest outbreak was detailed in our preliminary outbreak assessment in January which, among other factors, highlighted movements of animals from east to west along the so-called Eurasian ruminant corridor (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/pdf/fmd-turkey.pdf>).

The veterinary authorities in Turkey maintain a programme of routine vaccination against FMD (serotypes O, A and Asia1) which are endemic in the Asian part of Turkey. The



Produced by Alice Rogers,
IAHD, December 2006
Robinson Projection
Scale: 1:10,000,000

Foot and Mouth Disease in Turkey
February 2007

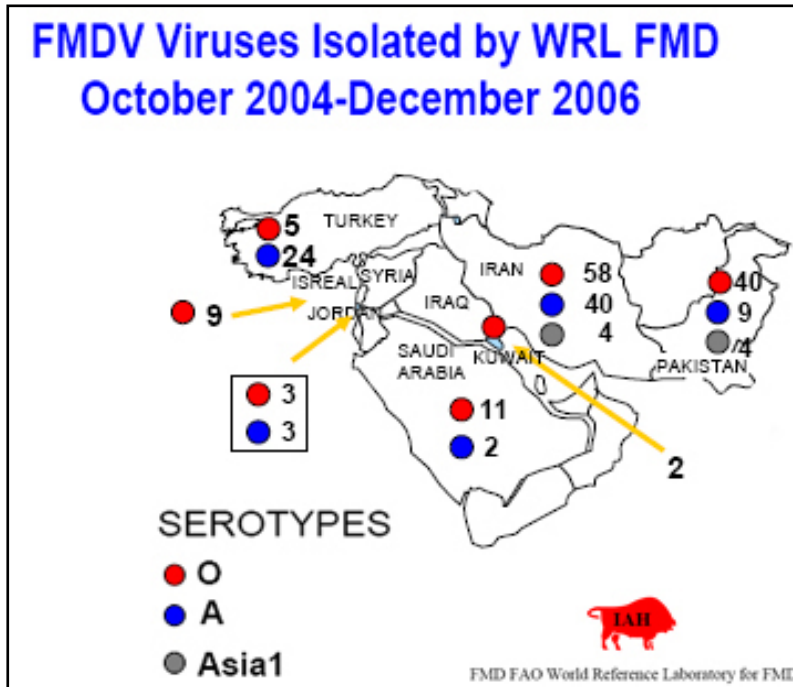
IAHD Development Team
March 2007
Source: ERSI Data & Maps CD
Created in ArcGIS 9 using ArcMap



recent introduction of a new FMD type A strain (A Iran 05) into Turkey and Iran initially caused disease outbreaks since the vaccines in use at the time did not provide a

sufficient level of protection against this new strain of FMD. The adoption of a different vaccine in these countries has now provided effective protection against this strain.

At this time the subtype of virus has not been confirmed, but a new variant of the PanAsia strain of FMD type O has been spreading across south Asia in recent years



(India in 2001; Nepal, 2003; Butan, 2003-2004; Malaysia, 2003-2005; Iran, 2005-2006; Pakistan, 2005-2006; Jordan, 2006 and Turkey, 2006) (Paton and others, 2006).

In summary, three types of FMD virus have been detected in the Middle East region between 2004 and 2006 (see map opposite, courtesy of IAH, Pirbright). These are a number of variants of the PanAsia strain of type O which have been found in Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait,

Iran and Pakistan, type A (strain A Iran 05) in Turkey, Jordan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and type Asia 1 in Iran (2004) and Pakistan (2005) (Paton and others, 2006).

The location of the latest outbreak of FMD Type O in European Turkey is close to the borders of the EU member states of Greece and Bulgaria. This development is of concern particularly since this is close to the earlier outbreak of FMD Type A. The Greek and Bulgarian authorities have reinforced border controls and vigilance after the January outbreak. British Customs are also aware of the on-going threat from Turkey when prioritising action against illegal imports of animal products.

Conclusion

Based on the disease report and situation assessment, 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 the virus introduction by illegal imports remains and is difficult to estimate. This emphasises the importance of ensuring that enforcement agencies are vigilant and that a ban on swill feeding is effectively applied. The IAHD does 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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- OIE. (2007b). Foot and mouth disease, Turkey. OIE Alert Message TUR 10-01-07. Received by e-mail 10 January 2007.
- Paton, D., Ferris, N., Li, Y., Knowles, N., Stirling, J., Bashiruddin, J. & King, D. (2007). FMD WRL REPORT 2006 (FAO Rome Jan 2007). http://www.iah.bbsrc.ac.uk/primary_index/current_research/virus/Picornaviridae/Aphthovirus/ref_labs/World2006.pdf (accessed 01 March 2007).