

DRAFT

**THE “RED ALERT” FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE SIMULATION
EXERCISE, ORGANIZED BY VETERINARY SERVICES OF ROMANIA IN
COOPERATION WITH TAIEX,
FROM
7-10th OF SEPTEMBER 2009, IN GURA HUMORULUI LOCALITY,
SUCEAVA COUNTY, ROMANIA**

SCENARIO

Aim of the simulation exercise

- To test the Contingency plan and the Operational Manual on local level mainly involving field and Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) activities
- To test the response capacity of the County CSVFSD to an outbreak of FMD
- To test the capacity of working together of the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA) and the County Inspectorate for Emergency Situation within LDCC:

Introduction

The Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) simulation exercise consist of 3 different phases. The 3 different phases are:

Phase I covers the demonstration of the actions and measures taken in relation to a primary outbreak.

Phase II involves the participants in analytical work and decision making with regard to actions and measures to be taken in relation to the suspicion and confirmation of FMD outbreaks.

Phase III involves the participants in analytical work and decision making with regard to actions and measures to be applied for regaining FMD free status

The scenario prepared for the simulation exercise is given below.

PHASE I – FMD Primary Outbreak

SCENARIO PREPARED FOR THE “RED ALERT” FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE SIMULATION EXERCISE, ORGANIZED BY VETERINARY SERVICES OF ROMANIA IN COOPERATION WITH TAIEX, BETWEEN 7-10-TH OF SEPTEMBER 2009, IN GURA HUMORULUI LOCALITY, SUCEAVA COUNTY

The activity which is to be developed on Tuesday, 8th of September 2009, between 8,30-12,30 represents the projection of a movie regarding the intervention in a primary outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. At the end of the projection, the positive and negative aspects of the intervention, described in the movie shall be discussed.

On 14th July, the shepherd from the fold being on a pasture from the Manastirea Humorului locality, Varvatei Brook area, from Suceava County, announces the empowered free practice veterinarian, dr. Ciornei Nicolae DVM., regarding ten of the cows and two sheep which he holds that they are sick; animal were depressed, have lack of appetite, fever, salivation (bovines) and lameness.

Within the sheepfold there are 410 sheeps, 20 bovines, 6 swines, 2 equines, one donkey and 6 dogs. The fold belongs to the owner named Beleica Liviu and is installed on a land rented from the Town Hall of the Manastirea Humorului locality.

The empowered free practice veterinarian announces the zonal official veterinarian dr. Jitaru Constantin DVM on this issue and, together, go to the fold, where, following the examination, consider the Foot and Mouth Disease suspicion in the two species, manifested by abundant salivation, aphtae with epithelial denudations on lingual mucous, mammary vesicles filled with liquid and foot lesions around hoofs, in bovines, lingual necrosis and specific foot lesions for sheeps.

The zonal official veterinarian announces telephonically the Coordinating Director of SVFSA Suceava about the suspicion, ordering the two veterinarians to stay and sending a team from SVFSA Suceava in order to collect the samples, to dispatch them to the laboratory and to place the fold under official surveillance. The SVFSA team arrives at the farm around 10,00, on 14.07.2009, collects the samples, packs them and dispatches them under safety conditions to IDAH.

On the same occasion, the farm was placed under official control until finding out the laboratory result, the animals being closed in pens and the necessary water and hay being made available. The horses and dogs were tighten to a fix point, in order to prevent the movement, also ensuring them the food and water. As there is no possibility of fencing the land, a signal band encircled a considerable perimeter in which there were the pens and the shepherds' shelter and posters have been placed which announced the placing under official surveillance and the ban from entering the isolated space.

The SVFSA Suceava director announces by SMS the General Director of Sanitary Veterinary General Directorate of NSVFSA about the suspicion, and, by phone, the county prefect, warning him regarding the suspicion and the probability of its confirmation.

The laboratory confirmation from IDAH-RNL for FMD is submitted on 15th July in the morning, at 0,30, by phone, and by fax, at 7,30, after issuing the analysis bulletin.

The Coordinating Director within SVFSD Suceava announces the county prefect about the disease confirmation and requests the calling out of CLCB in order to draw up, urgently, the disease control measures programme.

On the occasion of CLCB meeting, an eradication measures plan is being established and the protection (3 km) zone and the surveillance zone (10 km) are indicated, in fact the areas including the localities within their wholeness and not only parts of localities, as there would have resulted from the geometric indication of the zones.

The following localities with the number of susceptible animals specified in the table below were identified as belonging to the protection zone:

Crt No	Locality	Susceptibile tame animals							
		bovines		Sheep		goats		swines	
		H ¹	A ²	H	A	H	A	H	A
1	Manastirea Humorului	684	1700	105	1800	11	147	87	450
2	Gura Humorului	287	680	40	990	7	110	89	250
3	Frasin	719	2280	180	5800	32	230	67	300
4	Paltinoasa	521	1016	77	1406	44	110	200	339
5	Cacica	615	1604	190	2550	28	50	317	1100

¹ H: no. of holdings

² A: no. of animals

6	Partestii de Jos	433	885	190	1600	28	150	317	610
	Total	3259	8207	4041	14146	150	797	1077	3049

The following localities with the number of susceptible animals specified in the table below were identified as belonging to the surveillance zones:

Crt No ..	Locality	Susceptibile tame animals							
		bovines	H	sheep	H	goats	H	swine	H
1	SOLCA	1480	574	2000	183	100	18	1600	297
2	ARBORE	2580	945	5250	114	70	4	3200	1035
3	MARGINEA	1160	585	1328	38	15	4	600	49
4	SUCEVITA	219	183	428	11	10	0	100	75
5	FRUMOSU	2825	662	2923	164	464	18	628	251
6	VAMA	2624	677	3278	119	285	27	675	279
7	CAMPULUNG MOLDOVENESC	2850	594	1850	115	240	29	445	82
8	STULPICANI	3520	1020	6050	270	120	10	520	300
9	SLATINA	2273	845	3961	262	362	38	426	111
10	VALEA MOLDOVEI	1664	641	3716	104	268	302	1477	29
11	DRAGOIESTI	1826	686	4838	406	556	39	1526	248
12	CIPRIAN PORUMBESCU	1675	1012	6085	261	100	4	1000	312
13	STROIESTI	1590	635	2700	198	85	15	680	176
14	TODIRESTI	1750	893	3650	228	100	15	850	521
15	BOTOSANA	1594	651	3434	236	50	5	2242	574
16	CAJVANA	2233	908	2791	194	120	11	1000	1234
17	MILISAUTI	2600	1012	5557	91	532	19	1000	261
18	Total	34353	12523	62539	2994	2921	558	17969	5834

The preliminary investigation demonstrated as possible origin of infection the fact that, following a trip to Turkey, the farm owner had introduced illegally in the country a breed ram of 4-5 months, which he introduced within the livestock on 8th of July. When introducing it within the livestock, the ram looked healthy, but on 11 July, it became sick, manifesting lack of appetite, fever, lingual aphthae on the oral mucous membrane and lameness. On 12 July the ram died, and the shepherds buried it. The shepherds didn't give much importance to this case, not announcing the case to the veterinarian, but, on 13 July evening, 8 cows presented specific disease signs, and on 14 July when they announced the veterinarian, the number of sick cows raised at 10, in addition, two sheeps had become sick.

When investigating the animals which had recently left the livestock, the official veterinarian found out that a heifer had been moved away from the livestock,

being sold on 13 July, to the owner Hosbota Viorel from Manastirea Humorului locality. The investigation of this case was carried out urgently, on the same day, this being the first secondary disease outbreak.

Following the establishment of the measures programme, the control measures were applied in conformity with the Council Directive 85/2003/EC within the livestock .

All the susceptible animals from the farm have been slaughtered, in addition, the two horses, the donkey and the six dogs within the fold being killed. The disposal of the products and by-products existing within the fold and the disposal of the corpses was ensured with the assistance of the MONDECO SA rendering company.

After taking over the corpses and after their transportation to the rendering plant, the animal pens and the shepherds' shelter were burnt on a pyre, and the soil was sprayed with calcium hydroxide in solution for Ph alkalization and for the disposal of the virus which does not resist to a pH higher than 7,4 and to heat.

In order to prevent any risk, the use of the premise as pasture source was banned during the period which was left until closing the pasture season and the warning announcement was maintained on that place for another month.

At the exercise simulation, the teams from the Territory Intervention Center participated being composed, as it follows:

1. Animal examination team: dr. Jitaru Constantin DVM and dr Ciornei Nicolae DVM;

2. Samples collection Team: dr Burghilea Paula DVM, dr Lupes Gianina DVM and Colohan Radu assistant;

3. Disinfection team: Apetrei Catalin assistant;

4. Animal assessment team: dr Jitaru Constantin DVM; an APIA representative

5. Slaughtering Team: dr Galan Dorin DVM, dr Lupes Cristian DVM and Marcu Florin (from the slaughterhouse); the livestock shepherds were used for animal immobilization;

6. Control measures implementing Team: dr Jiha Ioan DVM and dr. Bacaiutan Nicolae DVM;

7. Team for clinical examination of livestock within control zones: dr. Lupu Ioan Dan DVM, dr. Gherghel Gratian DVM, dr. Verenca Ioan DVM and dr. Prelipcean Nicolae DVM(2 teams)

8. Team for road disinfectant construction: dr. Danut Botezan DVM and 2 representatives of the local gendarmerie.

NSVFSA, following the information received from SVFSD Suceava sent to the European Commission and Turkey an information note regarding the confirmation of a Foot and Mouth Disease case, having as possible source of infection -Turkey.

PHASE II – Disease suspicion and confirmation

Wednesday, 9 September 2009: the 2nd Day of the simulation exercise: tactic exercises regarding the intervention and taking decisions within the secondary outbreaks of Foot and Mouth disease (morning session); after presenting the scenario, working groups with the given topic can activate. The groups shall be conducted by an established person, shall debate on a given topic and they shall find solutions, and at the end of the session they shall present a report on the conclusions. Each working group shall include, mandatory, a decision making person at the level of SVFSD or ISU Suceava. The participants in the working groups shall collaborate at the situation analysis and at decision making in applying the measures.

The first secondary outbreak: On 13 July 2009, a local farmer named Hosbota Viorel within Manastirea Humorului locality buys from the farmer Beleica Liviu a five months heifer for breeding which he introduced directly into the personal livestock counting 5 cows; the farmer kept also, very closed to the cows stable, also five pigs which he fed usually with milk from those five cows. The first disease signs appeared within the livestock at the bought heifer, on 14 July in the morning, and the owner announced by phone the zonal official veterinarian who had found out from the epidemiological investigation carried out within the fold, about the sick animal. The veterinarian ordered telephonically to the owner to keep the animals in the holding and not to go to the locality until receiving the SVFSD team which was to place the backyard under official surveillance. The sequence of the activities developed was comparable to that developed within the fold, samples being collected and sent to the laboratory for diagnosis confirmation.

On 14 July in the morning, the farmer visited also, for personal purpose, two relatives from the village, who, in their turn, held susceptible animals, as it follows:

- **The second secondary outbreak:** Stigletu Dumitru, Stefan cel Mare street no. 33, owner of 5 bovines, 2 swines;

- **The third secondary outbreak:** Hojbota Leonte, Bulgaria street, owner of 5 bovines, 30 sheep, 3 swines

The Manastirea Humorului locality is at a distance of approximately 1km from the primary outbreak.

Taking into account the topography of the localities from the region, as well as the existence of geographic barriers represented by mountains, the extent of the protection and quarantine zones was not considered to be necessary on the occasion of those new secondary outbreaks, as the protection and surveillance zones included localities in their wholeness and not fragments, as there would have resulted from establishing two perfect circles with 3 and 10 km radius.

And these holdings were placed under official restrictions in conformity with the provisions of the Council Directive 2003/85/EC, and the animals were slaughtered,

Beginning with this situation, the participants in the exercise shall be divided in 6 working groups, each group having approximately 20 persons. There shall be 4 groups compiled of veterinarians and 2 groups compiled of county ISU members.

The following group exercises shall be carried out in this session:

For veterinarians (4 working groups)

Working Group no. 1, coordinator Dr. Cristian Siposean DVM (NSVFSA)

Topic: The establishment of protection and surveillance area in the case of secondary outbreaks

Working Group no. 2, coordinator Dr. Florin Mazdrag DVM (NSVFSA)

Topic: slaughtering and rendering in case of disease evolution in people's backyards;

Working Group no. 3, coordinator Marin Gruia, biologist (NSVFSA)

Topic: the opportunity of vaccine use in the control of foot and mouth disease in ruminants

Working Group no. 4, coordinator Dr. Iulia Turiac, DVM (NSVFSA)

Topic: The most important issues of epidemiological investigation that shall be followed in an outbreak; establishing traceability; important elements in taking decisions in the case of foot and mouth disease.

For ISU members (2 working groups)

Working Group no. 5, coordinator Dr. Marius Grigore DVM (NSVFSA)

Topic: Ways of operational communication between NSVFSA and ISU and of cooperation with The Center of Interventions in the Field in case of epidemic at the border between two counties. (Installation of route disinfectors, road warning panels at the demarcation of protection and supervision areas by the ISU, to ensure the security of roads and the disinfection of traffic cars on the inter-county roads).

Working Group no. 6, coordinators Dr Florica Durlea DVM (NSVFSA)and Col. Hueanu Airinei Vasile (ISU Suceava)

Topic: ISU contribution to the isolation of secondary outbreaks in non-professional holdings and to the assurance of accompanying transports to the rendering establishments.

PHASE III – Regaining of FMD free status after disease eradication

Wednesday, September, 9. 2009 : The 2nd day of simulation exercise: closing outbreak and lifting restrictions in secondary outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (afternoon session). It will be worked out in the same system as in the morning session.

In the backyards in Manastirea Humorului locality where three secondary outbreaks of disease evolved, 21 days have passed since the killing of receptive animals and the carrying out of disinfection.

During the 21 days mentioned, there were not recorded new cases of disease and the laboratory surveillance carried out on the samples collected from the animals in the areas of protection and surveillance areas indicated negative results.

In the affected area the control and prophylaxis measures have been totally carried out.

The national competent authority sent to the local competent authority the disposal of closing the secondary outbreaks.

For veterinarians (4 working groups)

Working Group no. 1, coordinators Dr Maria Andresecu DVM (NSVFSA)

Topic: Ways of disinfection of non-conventional areas (land, land covered with grass), the decontamination of vehicles operating in non-professional holdings

Working Group no. 2, coordinators Dr Florin Mazdrag DVM (NSVFSA)

Topic: Rules on the stamping out of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease and the lifting of restrictions

Working Group no. 3, coordinator biologist Marin Gruia (NSVFSA)

Topic: Requirements for the acquiring and maintenance of indemnity status after closing outbreaks and lifting restrictions imposed by disease evolution. Recovery of status following the eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease by vaccination.

Working Group no. 4, coordinators Dr Iulia Turiac DVM (NSVFSA)

Topic: Rules of restocking of non-professional holdings in conformity with the legislation in force.

For ISU members (2 working groups)

Working Group no. 5, coordinators Dr Marius Grigore DVM (NSVFSA)

Topic: Restrictions' lifting in protection and surveillance areas

Working Group no. 6, coordinators Dr. Florica Durlea DVM (NSVFSA) and Col. Hueanu Airinei Vasile (ISU Suceava)

Topic: ISU contribution to the surveillance of animals' movement in the protection and surveillance areas. The activities developed by ISU for disease restrictions' lifting.

Scenario drawn up by Dr. Maria Mihaita DVM-PhD

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