

## Summary of Selected Animal Disease Events July–September 2007

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### Ruminants (bovine, caprine, ovine)

#### Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Global

##### **United Kingdom (U.K.)**

On August 3, 2007, the U.K. confirmed its first outbreak of FMD since the extensive FMD outbreaks in 2001. The initial 2007 outbreak occurred in cattle at a farm in Surrey. The strain was identified as type O1 BFS67, which had not been in circulation for a number of years, but was being used at the nearby Pirbright site that houses a government diagnostic laboratory and a commercial vaccine manufacturing facility. There are strong indications that live FMD virus breached containment at Pirbright via leakage from a drainage system and was carried to the index premises by fomite transmission. There is no evidence suggesting intentional release of the virus.

A second infected premises was found on August 7 near the index premises. Subsequently, three additional outbreaks were confirmed by the U.K. between September 12 and 18. These outbreaks occurred about eleven miles from the earlier outbreaks. By September 30, three additional farms located within the Protection Zone were diagnosed as FMD-positive, making a total of 8 affected premises.



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## Saudi Arabia

Arab media reported a Saudi cattle trader sold 336 imported sheep suspected to be FMD-positive to markets in the Eastern Province. The trader illegally sold the sheep from an import quarantine center and is facing prosecution. The sheep reportedly originated from Iran and were imported to Saudi Arabia via Bahrain. Fifteen FMD-positive cows were also found to be housed on the trader's premises. During April 2007, the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture and Water reported to Saudi Arabian media that the country was experiencing outbreaks of FMD in cattle, sheep, and goats. Both FMD serotypes O and A are believed to be circulating in Saudi Arabia.

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## Armenia

Unsubstantiated rumors of FMD outbreaks in Armenia continued during the third quarter of 2007. During the month of July, residents of a village in Lori Province reported that 80% of their "animals" were sick and demanded help from authorities in handling the outbreak. Armenian government veterinarians suggested the outbreak was due to blackleg and stated that proper medication to mitigate the outbreak had been provided.

A report provided by a member of Armenia's emergency services of an FMD outbreak during May 2007 was retracted shortly following release. During 2006, unofficial reports of FMD outbreaks were repeatedly denied by Armenian authorities.

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## Bluetongue Virus, Europe

The emergence of bluetongue virus serotype 8 (BTV-8) intensified throughout northwestern Europe during the third quarter of 2007. In September, the United Kingdom reported its first-ever case of BTV-8 in a cow at a farm in Suffolk in southeastern England. By the end of September, the total number of BTV-8 affected premises in Europe rose to about 23,500. Due to the early onset and magnitude of BTV-8 outbreaks in 2007, there is general consensus that sufficient numbers of *Culicoides* vector midges for BTV-8 survived the relatively mild

2006–2007 European winter and continued BTV-8 spread in the spring. The range expansion of BTV-8 in Northern Europe may be associated with a warming climatic trend believed to contribute to improving conditions for survival of the arthropod vectors.

Near the beginning of October, the European Union's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) increased the size of the restriction zones for BTV-8 to encompass most of northwestern Europe, including parts of the U.K., Denmark, the Czech Republic, and all of Switzerland. Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, most of Germany, and about half of France also fall within the contiguous zones.

In addition to the BTV-8 outbreaks in northwestern Europe during the third quarter of 2007, bluetongue virus serotype 1 (BTV-1) was diagnosed for the first time on the Iberian Peninsula. Spain reported a BTV-1 outbreak in July in southern Andalusia directly across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco. By mid-September, BTV-1 had spread to neighboring Portugal. BTV-1 was reported for the first time in Algeria, Morocco, and Sardinia during the fall of 2006.

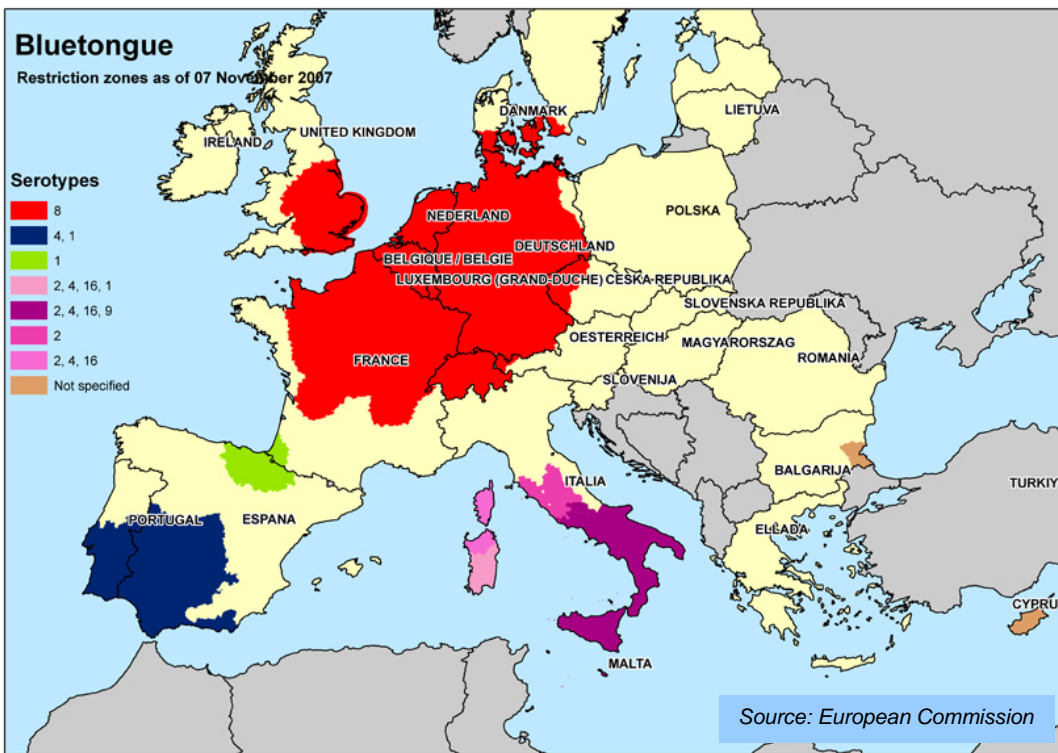
Bluetongue virus serotype 4 (BTV-4) has been circulating in southwestern Spain and southern Portugal since 2004. A commercially produced vaccine is available for BTV-4, and according to a report from the European Community, Portugal is testing an experimental vaccine for BTV-1 this fall. It is not clear whether this vaccine will be commercially available by next year's vector season in Europe. There are currently no BTV-1 and BTV-8 vaccines commercially available.

The following are country-specific bluetongue disease outbreak summaries through the end of September 2007:

Belgium: Belgium reported a total of 4,138 outbreaks of BTV-8 confirmed by RT-PCR in sheep (2,167), cattle (1,966), and goats (5). Belgian authorities also reported that morbidity and mortality in sheep were much higher this vector season than in 2006.

Luxembourg: During August and September 2007, Luxembourg recorded BTV-8 outbreaks on 937 premises. The majority of outbreaks (570) occurred during the first two weeks of September. Outbreaks in sheep increased about fivefold over the previous year.

Netherlands: As of October 1, 2007, the Netherlands reported 5,051 BTV-8 infected premises, of which 2,270 housed cattle, 2,766 housed sheep, and 17 housed goats. For the remainder of this vector season, monitoring by using sentinel animals is continuing only in the northern area of the country. The Netherlands was the first country to diagnose and report the emergence of BTV-8 in Europe in the late summer of 2006.



**Portugal:** Portugal began surveillance for BTV-1 in the border area with Spain after Spain's first BTV-1 confirmation. On September 21, 2007, Portugal confirmed its first case of BTV-1 close to the Spanish border. Within eight days of the first outbreak, media reported that over 40 farms in Southern Portugal were affected by BTV-1. As with Spain, Portugal's BTV-1 restriction zones overlap the majority of its BTV-4 restriction zones.

For further information regarding bluetongue outbreaks in the Mediterranean Basin between 1998 and 2004, please see the [Emerging Disease Notice published by CEI in January 2005](#).

**Germany:** Through September 2007, Germany reported 11,321 BTV-8 cases: 5,619 in cattle; 5,627 in sheep; the remaining cases involved goats, deer, and exotic sheep and bovines. The number of new BTV-8 cases rose rapidly, reaching almost 3,000 new cases per week in mid-September.

**France:** France reported BTV-8 outbreaks on 1,698 premises, of which 68% housed cattle. The mortality rate was reported to be highest among sheep, ranging between 15% and 30%. The foci of the BTV-8 outbreaks in France are in its northeast border areas with Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. France's protection and surveillance zones extend from the northeast border areas toward the southwest, covering about half the country.

**United Kingdom (U.K.):** The U.K. reported its first four outbreaks of BTV-8 to the OIE on September 27. The outbreaks occurred in East Anglia near the English Channel. According to Defra, the likely origin of the outbreaks was incursion by a *Culicoides* vector plume in August from infected areas across the Channel. By October 1, the U.K. reported eighteen holdings confirmed positive for BTV-8 and eleven more under investigation. Control and Protection Zones of 20 km and 150 km, respectively, were established, and movement of ruminants from these zones is prohibited.

**Spain:** While Spain has notified the OIE of six BTV-1 outbreaks since the initial case in late July 2007, unconfirmed media reports suggest as many as 46 outbreaks, mainly affecting premises housing cattle. Spain's BTV-1 restrictions zones overlap the majority of its BTV-4 restriction zones.

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3. EU-SCFCAH: <[http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/scfcah/animal\\_health/bt\\_23102007\\_be.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/scfcah/animal_health/bt_23102007_be.pdf)>. Accessed October 10-11, 2007.
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**Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in the United States (Ohio and Kentucky)**

A severe outbreak of EHD in white-tailed deer was reported in late July in the Mid-Atlantic States. By September the disease had crossed over to cattle herds in Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia. This was Ohio's first ever finding of EHD in cattle. For more information on EHD in white-tailed deer, please refer to the [Wildlife](#) section of this report.

*Sources:*

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Accessed October 16, 2007.

### **Bluetongue in the United States (Montana)**

During September, movement controls were placed on sheep in 16 Montana counties after bluetongue was diagnosed in farmed stock. The infections are believed to originate from wildlife, including pronghorn and white-tailed deer. Nighttime freezes are expected to kill off the vector midges, and movement controls were lifted on October 3rd. The circulation of bluetongue virus has impeded the exportation of U.S. cattle and sheep for the past 25 years. For more information on bluetongue in wildlife, please refer to the [Wildlife](#) section of this report.

*Sources:*

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## **Equids**

### **Equine Influenza, Japan**

Japan experienced an outbreak of equine influenza, the first since 1972, in mid-August. Several hundred cases of equine influenza were reported at multiple racetracks and training centers, and racing throughout Japan was cancelled until the outbreak was brought under control. The Equine Research Institute of the Japan Racing Association identified influenza A H3N8. Horses in Japan are routinely vaccinated for equine influenza.

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Accessed October 29, 2007.  
2. Equine Disease Quarterly, October 2007.

### **Equine Influenza, Australia**

Equine influenza was detected August 17 in imported horses at a quarantine station in Australia and subsequently spread to an equestrian center in Sydney. The initial outbreak was detected at a riding stable on August 22 when horses exhibited respiratory signs. The

virus spread from the quarantine station via indirect contact, as the infected horses were in quarantine when the outbreak at the equestrian center was detected. The disease continued to spread through New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland, and has infected thousands of horses involved in various equine activities, including racing.

Equine influenza is considered to be an exotic disease in Australia as it had never been detected in the country prior to this outbreak. The Australian horse population was naïve to the virus, providing optimal conditions for spread. A vaccination program was implemented on September 29. Buffer zones and ring vaccination are being used to contain areas with high concentrations of equine influenza in NSW and Queensland. Vaccinations are also being used to protect high-value horses. As of October 17, the government had purchased 750,000 doses of vaccine.

The economic impact of this outbreak has been significant. On September 9, the Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced a \$110 million funding package to assist people and businesses facing additional costs and significant financial hardship as a direct result of the equine influenza quarantine measures; on October 21, an additional \$117 million was allocated. The assistance package addresses needs in the following categories: Equine Workers Hardship Wage Supplement Payment; Equine Influenza Business Assistance Grant; Commercial Horse Assistance Payment; and grants for non-government, not-for-profit equestrian organizations.

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2. OIE Report (Initial and Follow-up Report 5):  
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4. Australian Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. September 9 Media Release:  
<<http://www.maff.gov.au/releases/07/07136pm.html>>. Accessed October 29, 2007.

### **Glanders, Russia**

An outbreak of glanders occurred in July in Russia's Chita region (see map). Eleven horses were confirmed positive on one farm and more than 100 contact horses were identified. All infected and contact horses were to be destroyed. No human cases were reported. Until recently, glanders had not been found in the Chita region. Specialists of Rospotrebnadzor (Federal Service for Monitoring Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare) worked cooperatively with the veterinarians in the Olovjaninsky district to prevent human infection and to educate the public. The source of the outbreak is



unknown; however, introduction by migrating animals from neighboring Mongolia, where the disease is present, is one possible source.



Source:  
ProMED:  
<[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1200:9446645652671996449:::~](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1200:9446645652671996449:::)>. Archive number 20070707.2167. Accessed October 29, 2007.

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## Poultry

### Newcastle Disease, Honduras

On July 5, 2007, Honduran animal health officials reported an outbreak of Newcastle disease in a backyard poultry flock of 1,467 birds. The last reported occurrence of Newcastle disease in Honduras was in December 2000. Control measures applied included movement controls, screening, vaccination, quarantine, and stamping out. The source of infection was illegal movement of animals.

Source:  
OIE Report: <[http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single\\_report&pop=1&reportid=5631](http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single_report&pop=1&reportid=5631)>. Accessed October 29, 2007.

### Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1, United States (Virginia)

On July 17, 2007, the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the presence of the North American strain of H5N1 virus in turkeys in Virginia. The strain was confirmed as a low pathogenic strain, and the presence of the highly pathogenic Asian strain of H5N1 was ruled out. The samples were collected as part of routine, pre-slaughter surveillance, and none of the birds showed signs of illness. State and industry officials depopulated the entire flock of approximately 54,000 birds according to H5 and H7 response guidelines. Because the producer was a participant in the National Poultry Improvement Plan, USDA provided 100% indemnity for the flock. Intensive

surveillance was conducted in commercial and backyard flocks within a six-mile radius around the affected farm, as well as on farms associated with the affected farm. No additional infections were found. The North American H5N1 strain is commonly detected in apparently healthy birds during routine surveillance and poses no health threat to humans.

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### Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N2, Portugal

On September 18, 2007, Portuguese animal health officials reported an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H5N2 in two large flocks of game birds (free-range ducks). This is the first reported occurrence of LPAI in Portugal. The outbreak was identified through the national surveillance program for avian influenza. Control measures applied included depopulation, movement controls, and screening.

Source:  
OIE Report: <[http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single\\_report&pop=1&reportid=6218](http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single_report&pop=1&reportid=6218)>. Accessed October 29, 2007

### Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H7N3, Canada

On September 27, 2007, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced the detection of highly pathogenic H7N3 avian influenza in a commercial poultry operation in Saskatchewan. The affected operation was a chicken broiler breeder flock of 49,100 birds. The flock was depopulated and the producer was compensated. Surveillance was conducted on farms within a 10 kilometer radius of the affected farm. No additional infections were found. The affected farm is located near a river and wild waterfowl are a suspected source of the virus.

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### Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (HPAI H5N1), Global

Outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 continued to occur during the third quarter of 2007 in Africa, Asia and Europe; however, no new countries were added during the

quarter. A new outbreak occurred in India, which had declared itself free of HPAI H5N1 in August 2006. Kuwait and Malaysia declared freedom from HPAI H5N1 in July and September 2007, respectively. Wild bird testing in the United States and Canada has not revealed any cases of HPAI H5N1. Human cases of HPAI H5N1 occurred during the third quarter of 2007 in Egypt, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

FAO's latest cumulative H5N1 maps by species can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/avianflu/en/maps.html>.

The following are country-specific HPAI H5N1 outbreak summaries through the end of September 2007:

## **Africa**

**Egypt:** FAO reported at least 13 confirmed outbreaks during July and August 2007 in at least four districts. Reported outbreaks occurred in backyard flocks of chickens, geese and ducks.

**Nigeria:** FAO reported more than 20 outbreaks in six states. Reported outbreaks occurred primarily on commercial farms and a few were on backyard farms.

**Togo:** In July 2007, FAO reported four outbreaks on layer farms in two regions of the country. HPAI H5N1 was first identified in Togo in June 2007.

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## **Asia**

**Bangladesh:** Bangladesh reported confirmed outbreaks on 54 farms in 19 districts from January through September 2007.

**China:** In September 2007, China reported an outbreak among duck farms in the Panyu district, Guandong province. The previously reported outbreaks in China in 2007 occurred in March and May 2007.

**India:** In July 2007, India reported an outbreak in backyard poultry in a village in the state of Manipur in the remote northeast of the country, which borders Bangladesh. The previous outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in India occurred in April 2006 and India had declared freedom from the disease in August 2006.

**Indonesia:** Through the FAO participatory disease surveillance (PDS) program in Indonesia, FAO reported that HPAI H5N1 continues to be endemic in four

provinces (Java, Sumatra, Bali and South Sulawesi), with sporadic outbreaks in other provinces.

**Myanmar:** In Myanmar, three outbreaks occurred at the end of July. Two of the outbreaks occurred in Mon State at chicken layer and broiler farms. The third outbreak occurred in the Bago division at a chicken layer farm. FAO reported an additional outbreak which occurred at the end of August on a broiler farm in Mon State.

**Pakistan:** Pakistan reported an outbreak in a commercial broiler breeder farm in the North-West Frontier Province in July 2007. FAO also reported an outbreak in August on a broiler breeder farm in the North-West Frontier Province. Pakistan had previously reported outbreaks during February, March, April, and May 2007.

**Vietnam:** From July through September 2007, Vietnam reported eight outbreaks in six provinces. Affected animals were primarily unvaccinated flocks of village ducks and some chickens.

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[http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//234638/AIDENews\\_oct07\\_no48\\_.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//234638/AIDENews_oct07_no48_.pdf)>. Accessed October 29, 2007.

## **Europe**

**Czech Republic:** In July 2007, the Czech Republic reported an outbreak on four farms in the Pardubický province, and detected HPAI H5N1 in a dead wild mute swan in the Jihomoravský province. The types of farms affected included chicken broiler and breeding flocks, and a turkey flock. The last previously reported outbreak in the Czech Republic was in June 2006.

**France:** France officials reported detection of HPAI H5N1 in several wild birds in Lorraine province in both July and August 2007.

**Germany:** In early July 2007, Germany reported a positive case of HPAI H5N1 in a domestic goose on a backyard farm in the eastern state of Thuringia. In late August and early September 2007, additional outbreaks were reported on two large commercial duck farms in the southern state of Bavaria. From January 2007 through August 24, 2007, a total of 306 cases of HPAI H5N1 were reported in wild birds.

## Russia

In September 2007, Russia reported its third outbreak of 2007 on a large poultry farm in the Krasnodar region.

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2. OIE Reports:  
<[http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A\\_AI-Asia.htm](http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm)>. Accessed October 29, 2007.
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## Porcine

### Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Sweden and Vietnam

#### Sweden

PRRS was detected for the first time in Sweden this summer. The outbreak was reported to the OIE on July 3. No clinical signs were seen and the disease was detected during routine serosurveillance. Eight herds were subsequently identified as infected, and aggressive stamping out was implemented. Serosurveillance has been increased country-wide; however, the source of infection has not been identified.

### Sources:

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2. OIE Report: <[http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single\\_report&pop=1&reportid=5811](http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single_report&pop=1&reportid=5811)>. Accessed October 24, 2007.

#### Vietnam Update

PRRS continues to spread in Vietnam after it was first identified in March of this year. Spread is attributed to legal movement of animals. Vietnamese authorities claim the most recent outbreaks are from a more virulent strain of PRRS than the one detected in the March outbreaks. For more information on the emergence of PRRS in Vietnam, please see the [CEI Emerging Disease Notice on the PRRS situation in Vietnam and China](#).

### Sources:

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<[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1202:5284234429967917882::NO::F2400\\_P1202\\_CHECK\\_DISPLAY,F2400\\_P1202\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:X,38571](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1202:5284234429967917882::NO::F2400_P1202_CHECK_DISPLAY,F2400_P1202_PUB_MAIL_ID:X,38571)>. Accessed October 24, 2007.
2. OIE Report: <[http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single\\_report&pop=1&reportid=5840](http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single_report&pop=1&reportid=5840)>. Accessed October 24, 2007.

3. OIE Report: <[http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single\\_report&pop=1&reportid=6282](http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single_report&pop=1&reportid=6282)>. Accessed October 24, 2007.

## South Africa

PRRS made a reappearance in the Western Cape of South Africa in August after a 2-year absence. This outbreak has not yet been officially reported to OIE. The outbreak affected mainly small farmers. Larger commercial operations in South Africa tend to perform regular testing for PRRS and are considered to be at lower risk for infection. South Africa last reported PRRS to the OIE in 2005.

### Sources:

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<[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1202:5284234429967917882::NO::F2400\\_P1202\\_CHECK\\_DISPLAY,F2400\\_P1202\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:X,39081](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1202:5284234429967917882::NO::F2400_P1202_CHECK_DISPLAY,F2400_P1202_PUB_MAIL_ID:X,39081)>. Accessed October 24, 2007.
2. PigProgress.net: <[http://www.pigprogress.net/home/id1602-28009/south\\_africa\\_culls\\_pigs\\_to\\_manage\\_prrs.html](http://www.pigprogress.net/home/id1602-28009/south_africa_culls_pigs_to_manage_prrs.html)>. Accessed October 24, 2007.

### African Swine Fever (ASF), Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan

The FAO has reported ASF remains “deeply entrenched” in Georgia, and that the Georgian epidemic is the source of recent outbreaks in Armenia. Armenia reported a first occurrence of ASF to the OIE in late August; in late October and early November, suspected outbreaks of ASF were reported in several districts in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) within Azerbaijan. Armenian media later reported that ASF had been confirmed in NKR. Russia, Turkey and Azerbaijan are all considered to be at increased risk of infection with ASF due to their proximity to the current outbreaks in the region.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

### Sources:

1. OIE Report: <[http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single\\_report&pop=1&reportid=6051](http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single_report&pop=1&reportid=6051)>. Accessed October 24, 2007.
2. ProMED: <<http://www.promedmail.org/pls/promed/f?p=2400:1200:12035432112998923356>>. Archive numbers 20071004.3275; 20070922.3150; 20071104.3589. Accessed October 24 and November 12, 2007.

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## Aquaculture/Aquatic Species

### Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) Update, United States (New York)

VHS was detected in three new locations in New York in July and was, for the first time, found in rainbow trout, one of the State's top game fish.

*Source:*

ProMED:

<<http://www.promedmail.org/pls/promed/f?p=2400:1200:12035432112998923356>>. Archive number 20070726.2401. Accessed October 18, 2007.

### Largemouth Bass Virus, Kansas

In August, Kansas became the 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. State to report the presence of largemouth bass virus. The virus was first identified in Florida in 1991. The virus attacks the swim bladder and is often fatal to fish, but has not been found to affect humans. The Kansas lake where the virus was found supplies a hatchery, in which monitoring efforts are underway.

*Sources:*

1. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks:

<[http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/fishing/largemouth\\_bass\\_virus\\_detected\\_at\\_crawford\\_state\\_lake](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/fishing/largemouth_bass_virus_detected_at_crawford_state_lake)>. Accessed October 18, 2007.

2. ProMED:

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### Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA), Chile

ISA was identified in Atlantic salmon in Chile in June. This is the first detection of ISA since 1999 when the outbreak involved Coho salmon. Chile is the world's second largest producer and exporter of salmon, after Norway. The United States does import salmon products from Chile, but has not imported live salmon from Chile in the past 2 years.

*Sources:*

1. World Trade Atlas:

<[http://www.tcgnews.com/santiagotimes/index.php?nav=story&story\\_id=14443&topic\\_id=1](http://www.tcgnews.com/santiagotimes/index.php?nav=story&story_id=14443&topic_id=1)>. Accessed October 18, 2007.

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## Wildlife

### Bluetongue and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease in Deer, Pronghorn, and Cattle, United States

Summer and fall of 2007 were especially severe for bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in the United States. Outbreaks of EHD in white-tailed deer were first reported in late July in the Middle Atlantic States, and have since occurred in parts of the Midwest,

Southeast and Northeast. In some States, thousands of animals are estimated to have died. In August and September, EHD spread to cattle herds in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. In addition, a bluetongue epizootic is estimated to have killed hundreds of white-tailed deer and pronghorn in eastern Montana where it has also affected sheep. Bluetongue-related deaths were also reported in deer and pronghorn in Wyoming.

Currently, there are five known serotypes of bluetongue virus and two known indigenous serotypes of EHD virus in the United States. In addition, researchers at the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study recently isolated an unknown serotype of EHD virus and a novel bluetongue virus (later identified as serotype 3), both from white-tailed deer. These findings could represent new introductions of exotic orbiviruses into the United States, either through natural movement of infected animals or vectors, or through importation from another country. Alternatively, the viruses may have been in the United States for some time but have gone undetected.

For more information on EHD and bluetongue in livestock, please see the [EHD](#) and [BT](#) sections of this report.

*Sources:*

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2. Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia.

<<http://www.uga.edu/scwds/briefs.htm>>. Accessed October 16, 2007.

3. NewScientist.com News Service:

<<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn12756-bluetongue-leap-frog-and-global-warming.html>>. Accessed October 9, 2007.

4. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks News Headlines. 13 September 2007.

### West Nile Virus in White Pelicans, Montana

In each of the past several years, West Nile virus (WNV) has killed hundreds of American white pelican chicks at the Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Montana. The Refuge contains the fifth largest colony of white pelicans in North America, including some 8,000 to 10,000 breeding adults and approximately 4,000 nests. Researchers at Montana State University (MSU) discovered that *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes are the primary carrier of WNV in Montana and that the Medicine Lake Refuge was one of the hot spots for the virus. Now there is a possible new vector: the stable fly, *Stomoxys calcitrans*. MSU researchers became suspicious after collecting few mosquitoes at the Refuge in 2006, but observing a continuing high mortality rate in pelicans. Stable flies were found feeding on some of the birds and 18 of 60 groups of flies tested positive for WNV. This was the first report of stable flies feeding on wild birds, and the first report of stable flies infected with West Nile virus. More research will be required to determine whether stable flies are true biological vectors of WNV (i.e., amplifying the virus internally and transmitting it to hosts through bites)



rather than by passing the virus mechanically from infected mouth parts.

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<<http://www.montana.edu/cpa/news/nwview.php?article=5161>>.  
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2. ProMED:  
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