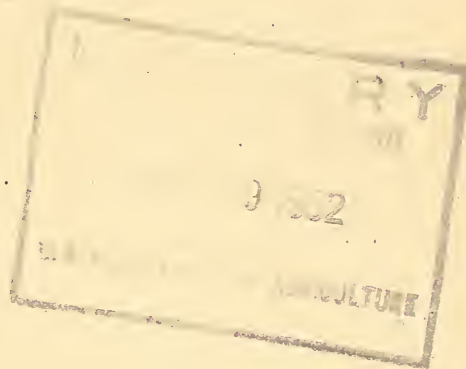


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

July 5, 1950

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE
CAMPAIGN FOR THE ERADICATION OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
IN MEXICO
NO. 23



Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of the best information available at the time of compilation but is subject to later revision. It covers the principal developments since the issuance of the 22nd report of March 20, 1950.

Program Enters Critical Phase

The program to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico has entered what is believed to be its most critical period. Fourth vaccinations are completed in about 30 percent of the quarantine zone and vaccine protection against the disease is wearing off in increasing numbers of animals every day. The possibility of outbreaks of active infection in these areas is to be expected and animals are watched constantly by inspection brigades, permanently assigned to specified districts. They are required to inspect every susceptible animal in each district at least once every thirty days. This increased emphasis is indicated by inspection figures reported as follows: March, 14,809,688 animals; April, 12,786,503 animals; and May, 15,221,054 animals.

The attached map indicates areas in which immunity is gradually wearing off as well as the status of continuing vaccinations.

Cessation of Vaccination Activities

Third vaccinations are being completed in the center of the quarantine zone, and fourth vaccinations will be continued---probably through July---until all areas in which foot-and-mouth disease has existed have been covered. Reduced vaccination figures of 3,388,714 animals in May can be compared with the all-time high of 5,052,811 vaccinations in January of this year.

The last vaccine was produced in Mexico on April 13, 1950, for a cumulative total of 53,124,000 doses manufactured by the Joint Mexican-United States Commission. Earlier in the program, before production facilities were provided in Mexico, a total of 1,644,619 doses of vaccine were purchased from Argentina, Switzerland, Holland, and Denmark. Thus a total of 54,768,619 doses were made available during the vaccination program. A reserve supply of about 7,500,000 doses is being held for possible emergency use.

As vaccine production units ceased operations, stringent disinfection operations were carried out in order to remove any danger of spread of infection from these sources. Buildings and equipment were thoroughly cleaned, washed, and disinfected. All residue of virus suspensions, epithelium samples, and materials which had come in direct contact with infected tissues were destroyed in a manner to prevent the escape of the virus. After these measures were completed, test animals were introduced and held for thirty days under close observation. When no symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease appeared, the animals were removed and the areas once more cleaned and disinfected before release to the original owner.

Diagnostic Tests Continued

The foot-and-mouth disease laboratory at Palo Alto, on the outskirts of Mexico City, remains in operation principally to conduct diagnostic tests on materials gathered from suspicious animals. A total of 97 such tests have been conducted since the first of the year, none of which were positive for foot-and-mouth disease. Twenty-four of the samples were positive for

vesicular stomatitis, a disease causing many of the same symptoms as foot-and-mouth. These tests represent merely a fraction of the number of suspicious cases reported during that period, many of which can be diagnosed on the spot without laboratory tests.

Slaughter Operations

Slaughter operations were carried out April 27 on one suspicious animal--- an ox which had been vaccinated four times. Subsequent tests showed the disease to be neither foot-and-mouth disease nor vesicular stomatitis. However, because of the occurrence of the lesions suspicious of foot-and-mouth disease, it was considered advisable to slaughter the animal without delay, as a precautionary measure. This is the only slaughter carried out since January when fifteen animals, involved in the December outbreak in the State of Jalisco, were destroyed.

Overconfidence Presents Danger

Overconfidence is one of the greatest obstacles to be overcome during the current phase of the program. Reports that mass vaccinations will be terminated as well as the fact that no active infection has been discovered in Mexico since last December has led to a general public belief that the campaign is over and the disease is eradicated. This feeling could be extremely dangerous during the next few months when the successful completion of the program may very well depend upon constant vigilance and prompt action. The Commission is attempting to combat this hazard by issuing informative material describing the situation as it stands now and emphasizing the fact that the full cooperation of the Mexican people still is urgently needed.

COMPARISON OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Vaccine Production, Vaccination, Premises Disinfection

VACCINE PRODUCTION BEGINNING MAY 1948		VACCINATIONS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1948		PREMISES DIS- INFECTED BEGINNING MAY 1949	
	<u>Doses</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Number</u>
May	36,000	February	25,000	May	767
June	9,000	March	35,000	June	4,664
July	135,000	April	132,158	July	2,993
August	354,000	May	128,875	August	2,378
September	630,000	June	67,329	September	2,494
October	1,060,000	July	47,671	October	1,235
November	1,350,000	August	105,169	November	1,248
December	<u>1,750,000</u>	September	87,185	December	1,775
Total for 8 months	<u>5,324,000</u>	October	461,238		
		November	711,511	1950	
1949		December	<u>959,391</u>	January	2,636
January	2,500,000	Total for 11 months	<u>2,760,527</u>	February	2,884
February	2,000,000			March	2,394
March	2,300,000	1949		April	1,548
April	2,100,000	January	1,775,186	May	2,762
May	2,400,000	February	1,738,360		
June	3,200,000	March	2,404,970		
July	2,500,000	April	2,830,514		
August	5,200,000	May	3,664,943		
September	3,800,000	June	3,336,429		
October	4,000,000	July	2,970,056		
November	3,200,000	August	3,502,342		
December	<u>3,800,000</u>	September	3,009,203		
Total for 12 months	<u>37,000,000</u>	October	3,251,133		
		November	4,201,233		
1950		December	<u>5,010,199</u>		
January	3,800,000	Total for 12 months	<u>37,694,568</u>		
February	3,400,000				
March	3,000,000	1950			
April	600,000	January	5,052,811		
Total for 4 months	<u>10,800,000</u>	February	2,932,949		
Grand total	<u>53,124,000</u>	March	2,816,943		
		April	3,190,904		
Doses of vaccine		May	<u>3,388,714</u>		
purchased from		Total for 5 months	<u>17,382,321</u>		
Europe & South		Grand total	<u>57,837,416</u>		
America	1,644,619				
Above grand total	<u>53,124,000</u>				
Total doses of					
vaccine made					
available to					
Commission					
through May 1950	<u>54,768,619</u>				

THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN MEXICO

JUNE 1, 1950

BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

