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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

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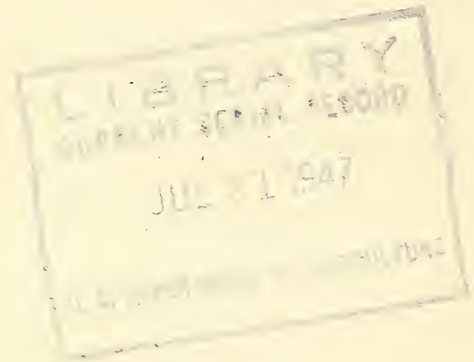
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SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

in the

MEXICAN OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

With Supplementary Information
on United States Cooperation
in Control Measures



Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of the best information obtainable but is subject to revision and amplification as new facts become available. Additional supplemental reports will be issued as significant developments in eradication work occur. The first report of this series was prepared January 28, 1947.

New Developments in the Eradication Campaign

Since May 17, when Supplement No. 4 of this series of reports was issued, a number of new developments in the foot-and-mouth disease situation in Mexico have occurred. They are:

The suppression of the disease in several outlying centers of infection.

More specific determination of the extent of the outbreak than had previously been made.

The visit of President Miguel Alemán, of Mexico, to areas where eradication work is in progress and his personal support of the program.

Further increases in the size of field forces engaged in eradicating the disease.

Progress in the slaughter and burial of diseased animals.

Announcement of average indemnities paid for cattle.

Development of a system for cleaning and disinfecting stock cars in the Mexico City area, as a further means of preventing the spread of infection.

Informational activities.

Suppression of Infection in Outlying Areas

In accordance with the policy of the commission in charge of eradication work to give primary attention to centers of infection outside the main quarantine zone in east-central Mexico, several of such outlying areas have been the object of special attack by the veterinary forces.

Among the areas apparently freed of infection are one in the State of Zacatecas and another in Aguascalientes. These had constituted two of the most northerly approaches of the disease to the Mexican-United States border. Eradication of the disease from those areas constitutes a definite reduction in its threat to the United States.

The gains mentioned have been offset to some extent by a slight increase in the size of the main quarantined area, principally in southern Veracruz, and a few other outbreaks. The more important new centers of infection were in southeastern San Luis Potosi, east-central Jalisco, and north-central Chiapas. Material progress has been made toward elimination of the disease in San Luis Potosi, Michoacan, and Jalisco.

The type and size of the gains, when compared with the territory freed of the disease, constitute some net progress, which is being hastened by the substantial quantity of automotive, earth-moving, and disinfecting equipment now available to the eradication forces. Most of this material has already been distributed and is in active use.

Extent of Outbreak More Definitely Determined

Precise determination of the outer boundaries of areas in which foot-and-mouth disease has occurred in Mexico still awaits the completion of field surveys by veterinarians experienced in the diagnosis of the disease. However, from information obtained by the United States veterinary forces, a reasonably accurate measure of the infected areas, as of June 20, is provided by the following tabulation of Mexican States and municipalities in which infected herds have been reported.

<u>State</u>	<u>Number of infected municipalities</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number of infected municipalities</u>
Aguascalientes	4	Morelos	25
Chiapas	3	Oaxaca	2
Federal District	13	Puebla	40
Guanajuato	10	Queretaro	2
Guerrero	4	San Luis Potosi	1
Hidalgo	43	Tlaxcala	28
Jalisco	2	Veracruz	110
Mexico	40	Zacatecas	1
Michoacan	7		

Altogether 335 municipalities in 16 States and the Federal District represent the approximate area infected, as listed above. (The infection in San Luis Potosi, which occurred in the extreme southeastern corner of that State, is not shown on the accompanying map, previously prepared.)

Visit of President Alemán to Eradication Areas

On June 6, 7, and 8, the President of Mexico, Miguel Alemán, visited several areas of foot-and-mouth disease infection in the States of Mexico, Guanajuato, and Queretaro and observed eradication activities in progress there. Stopping frequently to talk to groups of his people, President Alemán repeatedly stressed three main points:

1. Foot-and-mouth disease is the most serious problem facing the country today.
2. The methods used by the commission in combating it are the most effective ones known to science.
3. Final success in the grim battle will be gained only if every Mexican cooperates fully with eradication authorities.

Stock breeders were among those to whom the President addressed his remarks and they, like the rest of the populace, responded with enthusiasm and pledges of support.

Augmented Staff Supports Increased Operations

Since the end of April the United States has gradually been building up its forces in Mexico, thereby permitting more extensive field operations. Increases occurred both in the number of veterinarians and in the staff of auxiliary employees such as appraisers, paymasters, sanitary techni-

cians, and administrative and clerical workers. On June 27 the staff of the American section of the commission comprised a total of 144 persons of whom 115 were engaged in active field work. The staff consisted of the following classes of employees:

Veterinarians, 50; appraisers, 20; sanitary technicians, 19; paymasters, 25; administrative and clerical employees, 30.

In addition, approximately 245 persons, employed by the commission, are engaged in the operation, servicing, and repair of automotive and construction equipment, the maintenance of warehouses, and distribution, to the field forces, of the large quantities of machinery and other supplies recently received.

Progress of Slaughter Operations

Since the beginning of the eradication campaign, slaughtering operations have been reported from 13 Mexican States in addition to the extensive liquidation of large numbers of animals by slaughter in abattoirs, which are chiefly in the Federal District, in which Mexico City is situated. Most of the cattle slaughtered and buried were reported from the State of Guanajuato, the total there up to the end of May being about 26,000. For all Mexican States the slaughter of cattle, in direct connection with the eradication work, is estimated to be about 86,600 head to the end of May and 81,800 more during June. The reported slaughter of sheep, goats, and swine, thus far in the campaign, has exceeded 68,000.

Large numbers of other cattle, swine, sheep, goats for which indemnities were not paid were slaughtered in the main quarantined zone in the course of commercial marketing. Such marketing is being encouraged in order to reduce the numbers of susceptible animals, thereby providing less opportunity for the disease to spread.

Average Indemnities for Cattle

A tabulation of approximately 29,000 receipts for indemnities paid by the United States for a portion of the cattle condemned and slaughtered in the eradication campaign shows a valuation, for the average animal, of 238 pesos, equivalent to about \$49 in United States currency. The period covered by the compilation was from April 10, 1947 to May 31. The cattle were in all classes including cows, calves, and work oxen. Oxen were the most valuable averaging about \$76 a head for 11,544 animals. Estimates indicate that the receipts tabulated to May 31 were fairly representative of the remaining receipts for the period.

Railroad-Stock-Car Disinfection Established

The establishment of a thorough-going system of railroad-stock-car disinfection is an important development in the organization of the campaign. All rolling stock in which livestock are sent to Mexico City--main slaughter point of the country--are subjected to appropriate treatment before being

released for further service. It consists in the removal of all manure and litter from the cars, thorough washing with water under pressure and, after partial drying, disinfection with a 2 percent or stronger solution of sodium hydroxide, also under pressure. After each car has been cleaned, washed, and disinfected in this manner it is sealed, placarded, and assigned for further transportation use.

Informational Activities

As the joint Mexican-United States campaign against foot-and-mouth disease progresses, its varied activities have been the subject of much discussion by the press and radio. Most of the comments have been favorable but some critical ones, apparently based on misinformation or lack of clear understanding, have also appeared. To help give the public a clear picture of the problems involved and how they are being met, several agencies have issued educational material.

The joint Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease has issued a folder intended primarily to acquaint tourists with the danger of spreading the infection of this malady and appealing for their cooperation in controlling and eradicating it.

The Mexican Ministry of Public Education and Ministry of Agriculture, in consultation with United States officials, are sponsoring the production of a motion picture, intended for public distribution, on foot-and-mouth disease.

The Department of Agriculture of the State of Michoacan has issued a 6-page pamphlet entitled, "Fiebre Aftosa" for distribution to livestock owners. It discusses the cause, symptoms, transmission, and prevention of the disease.

Other informational activities, largely by the Mexican-United States Commission in charge of eradication work, have comprised press and radio releases, photographs of field operations, and addresses before educational and religious groups.

Supplementary Information

Since the issuance of Supplement No. 4 on May 17, the Department has issued, for public distribution, the following material relating to foot-and-mouth disease:

- Large-Scale Foot-and-Mouth Slaughter Operations on American-Owned Ranch in Mexico. Press release, May 22, 1947
- Observations on Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Mexico, by B. T. Simms, Chief of Bureau of Animal Industry. May 27, 1947
- Urge Speed in Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication, Press release, May 28, 1947

U. S. Heavy Equipment Reaches Mexico in Foot-and-Mouth Disease Drive. Press release, June 2, 1947

Mexican President Gives Full Support to Foot-and-Mouth Eradication Operations. Press release, June 18, 1947

Sanitary Technicians Build Good-Will in Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign. Press release, June 19, 1947

AREAS INFECTED WITH FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
IN MEXICO JUNE 1, 1947

