Restriction of Trade Due to Disease Outbreaks

Sara Kaman, DVM
National Center for Import and Export
USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

In an ideal world....
- WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement
  - 146 member countries
- Establishes rules for protection of animal/plant health while facilitating trade

SPS Basic Rules:
- Members have the right to apply necessary measures.
- Only applied to extent necessary and based on science.
- Must be based on assessment of risk.
- Must be the least restrictive on trade.
- Must recognize equivalent measures.

It’s not an ideal world...
- Difference in interpretation of science or OIE Animal Health Code.
- Linkage to broader trade issues.
- Use of SPS measures to disguise a restriction on international trade.
APHIS-VS Role in Trade

- Develop import policy/regulations to protect health of US livestock/poultry

Recent Export Challenges

- LPAI in Northeastern U.S.
- END in Western U.S.
- BSE in WA State
- HPAI in TX

Low Pathogenic AI

- Ongoing “outbreaks” in U.S.
- LPAI endemic throughout the world
- LPAI is not an OIE notifiable disease
- In U.S., H7N2 LPAI strain associated with live bird markets in the Northeast
LPAI: Virginia/WV 2002
- 4.7 million birds depopulated
- Cost to eradicate: $50 million
  - Lost exports to Japan alone: $130 million

Overall Effects
- Sets precedent for future trade restrictions due to LPAI.
- U.S. submission to SPS Committee
  - Differences in application of OIE standards for AI
  - Actions more trade restrictive than necessary
- OIE-mediated consultation with Japan

Exotic Newcastle Disease
- October 2002 – September 2003
- Affected California, Arizona, Nevada, Texas, and New Mexico
- Numerous trade bans (includes states with only 1 case)
- 3.9 million birds destroyed
- $100 million eradication costs

END Overview
Past END Experience

- 1971 – 1973 outbreak in commercial poultry in CA
- 11.9 million birds destroyed
- $56 million Federal dollars to eradicate
- 3,177 task force personnel
- 3 years to eradicate

History of Trade Restrictions Resulting from END

- October 1: END infection confirmed in CA
- October 1: EU imposes US restrictions
- November 29: China begins CA restrictions
- January 1: Canada begins CA restrictions
- January 10: Russia begins CA restrictions
- January 16: END confirmed in AZ

More END Trade Restrictions

- January 17: Mexico begins restrictions
- February 4: END confirmed in NV
- February 14: Japan’s AI restrictions end, END restrictions begin
- April 9: END confirmed in TX
- By April 14: EU, Mexico & Canada restrict poultry exports from TX
Even More Trade Restrictions
- Trade restrictions often continue after eradication

Regionalization reduces losses
- Down to State or county level

APHIS Task Force
- Federal Employees: 5,352
- State/Local Employees: 2,338
- Most returned for multiple rotations with some returning as many as 12 times.
**BSE in Washington State**

- December 23, 2003: Secretary announces “presumptive positive”
- Epidemiological investigation
- Affected animal imported from Canada

**Trade Bans Due to BSE**

- Current bans imposed by 58 countries
- Includes live animals, animal products

**Actions to Open Export Markets**

- High-level negotiations
- Letter to foreign CVO’s
- Enhanced BSE surveillance plan
- FSIS/FDA actions

**Other Actions**

- Recent OIE-mediated discussions between U.S. and the European Union
  – Goal: To reach common position to steer needed changes to the OIE chapter on BSE
HPAI in Texas
- Feb ‘04: Routine surveillance detects H5 AI virus in Gonzales County, TX
- Virus meets OIE standards for HPAI, but clinical signs mild
- Task force deployed
- Trade bans begin

HPAI Efforts/Outcomes
- Extensive surveillance, testing conducted
- Virus isolated at index site and 2 LBM’s
- Not in commercial poultry
- U.S. declares HPAI freedom on April 1, 2004 – OIE notification

Regionalization for HPAI
- Some countries regionalize down to the State of TX (EU, Chile, Estonia, Hungary)
- Japan, Korea, Mexico continue to ban entire U.S.

Joint Efforts
- Multi-agency cooperation
- Task force efforts
- Trade negotiations
- TRUE GRIT!