

2022

Annual Report on Animal Infectious Disease Surveillance in 2022

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Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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Shooting location: NLBC Iwate station

Preface

The eradication and control of livestock infectious diseases such as foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, African swine fever, and highly pathogenic avian influenza has become a global challenge from the perspective of ensuring a stable supply of safe livestock products. In Japan, the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the 2022 season, the largest ever, resulted in the culling of approximately 17.71 million birds and a temporary spike in the price of eggs, which significantly impacted on the Nation's food supply. In addition, although the outbreak of classical swine fever, which re-emerged in Japan in September 2018 for the first time in 26 years, has been largely controlled by thorough vaccination of domestic pigs, in August 2023, the first outbreak in the Kyushu region since September 2008 was confirmed at a domestic pig farm in Saga Prefecture. Furthermore, the infection of classical fever virus continued to spread within the wild boar population, which is a major concern.

Meanwhile, looking at the global situation, outbreaks of contagious diseases such as foot and mouth disease and African swine fever, which have not occurred in Japan, have been reported and expanded throughout Asia and Europe. Since the Chinese government lifted the ban on group travel to Japan in August 2023, the number of visitors to Japan is expected to increase. In addition, the risk of viral infections due to the effects of global warming has been increasing and we always need to be on the lookout for new outbreaks of infectious diseases in livestock due to the changes in the habitats of virus-transmitting insects and diversification of hosts as a result of changes in pathogenicity.

Under these circumstances, effective surveillance is a key to monitoring the introduction and occurrence of livestock infectious diseases and preventing their spread. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries prepares surveillance plans for relevant livestock infectious diseases every year and conducts surveillance in cooperation with prefectural governments. This annual report on animal infectious disease surveillance aims to provide relevant information related to animal infectious diseases in Japan, including the outbreak situations, surveillance results, and recent topics. We hope this annual report will be informative and helpful to all those involved in livestock production and animal health.

Director, Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Masatsugu Okita