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Algeria

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NIS 47 - Section 45Algeria

## A. General

The French supervised veterinary services in Algeria have made little progress in the control of animal diseases or in the establishment of veterinary public health measures. Political disturbances in the past few years have resulted in deterioration of modest post World War II veterinary service development. Livestock owners, predominantly nomadic Moslems, have neither sought nor welcomed the efforts of the veterinary organization to provide animal disease preventive services. The scope of veterinary service to the European colonist and the more enlightened Moslem livestock producers has been considerably reduced since widespread terrorism has confined activities to limited secure areas. Planned expansion of animal disease preventive programs to include nomadic herds and flocks in the upper plateau and Saharan regions has never been achieved.

Although local veterinary biological and pharmaceutical production has never been adequate for Algeria's modest requirements, supplementary supplies are readily available from France.

Sanitary supervision over food products of animal origin is designed to satisfy requirements for the European consumers in the major metropolitan areas and the limited export trade. Controls in other areas are lacking or at best perfunctorily performed. 4/ 5/ 8/ 15/ 17/ 23/

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## B. Environmental factors

1. Topography and climate -- Suitable land resources for efficient livestock production are extremely restricted in Algeria. Most of the country's livestock, predominantly sheep and goats, is confined to the sparsely productive plateau or arid rangeland areas. h/ 8/ 2h/

2. Socio-economic factors -- The Moslem rural and nomadic population is interested only in providing a modest family requirement of animal products. Neither sanitary preparation of food nor the efficient production of livestock products for trade are considered important by this segment of the Algerian community. The advanced concepts of the European settlers and a few progressive Moslems regarding animal production efficiency are applied only in a few accessible areas. 1/ h/ 8/ 15/

## h. Nutrition

c. Food sanitation, storage and technology -- Only five major metropolitan areas, Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Beas, and Elida, carry out regular veterinary supervision or inspection of food products of animal origin for local consumption or export trade. Storage facilities are limited and retail distribution, except in a few shops, is conducted under extremely unsatisfactory conditions. Attention to food sanitation in other areas is almost completely neglected. h/ 8/ 19/ 2h/

## C. Diseases

### 2. Diseases of animals

Algerian livestock is afflicted with all of the serious animal diseases common throughout North Africa. Control measures against enzootic diseases are generally less effective in Algeria than in other areas of this region. Regular veterinary services have scarcely explored the animal disease incidence nor the reservoirs of

infections in the major livestock areas of the country. Veterinary animal disease control measures in the more accessible and highly developed livestock production centers have not yet been developed to the extent of similar programs in comparable areas of Morocco.

A large proportion of Algerian livestock is adversely affected by periodic drought, inclement weather and more or less constant nutritional deficiencies. These conditions, added to the recurrent infectious diseases and parasitic infestations, impose a heavy burden on the productive capacity of native animals and practically preclude the introduction of higher quality but more disease susceptible European animal breeds. 1/ 4/ 5/ 6/ 8/ 2h/

a. Most prevalent animal diseases

(1) Sheep pox - Sheep pox is the most serious livestock disease in Algeria. Losses are extensive and, while control of this disease is the primary objective of Algerian veterinary authorities, less than 5 percent of the total sheep population is immunized annually. This constitutes far too small a proportion of the susceptible stock for effective control. Goat pox also occurs and is probably a much more significant disease than available reports indicate.

(2) Anthrax - Anthrax is epizootic in Algeria as in all North African areas. No estimates of losses are available and vaccination is practiced in only the more valuable flocks and herds.

(3) Brucellosis - *Brucella melitensis* infection in goats and sheep is known to be widespread throughout North Africa. Little investigative work has been accomplished in Algeria in relation to this disease, despite the fact that it is obviously a serious human health problem.

(4) Rabies - Rabies is extremely prevalent in carnivores throughout

Algeria. Rabies prevention measures are confined to the larger metropolitan areas where approximately 30,000 dogs are vaccinated annually.

(5) Protozoan parasitic diseases - Anaplasmosis, piroplasmosis and

theileriasis have all been reported in Algeria. Although few details concerning the extent and seriousness of these diseases are available in Algeria, they are known to be sources of major economic loss in the livestock industries of other countries of the region. Both cattle and sheep are affected and imported livestock are extremely susceptible.

(6) Cysticercosis - Cysticercosis is prevalent in cattle, camels, sheep

and goats. Few, if any, precautions are taken in handling and consumption of meat products to prevent dissemination of the infestation to either the human or animal population.

(7) Fowl pest - Fowl pest is reported widespread in Algeria, but it

appears likely that pseudo fowl pest (Newcastle disease) may also be present and that accurate diagnosis is not consistently carried out. In any event, these diseases, particularly when complicated with concurrent fowl pox, also common, result in high mortality.

b. Other animal diseases

Distomatosis, verminous bronchitis and taeniasis are serious livestock infestations. Blackleg, tetanus and enterotoxaemia cause sporadic losses. Although swine raising is important only in the European sector, hog cholera and swine erysipelas occur commonly, resulting in heavy losses. 1/ 1/ 5/ 6/ 8/ 2h/

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## D. Veterinary organization and administration

## 1. Civilian

a. Organization - The Government Veterinary Service is responsible to the Director of the Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Commodities Service. The Service for Livestock Development, the principal component of the Government Veterinary Service, directs the Animal Disease Investigation (Sanitary Police) and the Animal Disease Prevention and Development units. The latter provides central and territorial inspection and disease prevention services as well as livestock development and breeding centers. Laboratories for research and diagnostic services have been established at the veterinary and zootechnical research centers of Maison-Carree and Koubs.

Municipal Veterinary Services for inspection and sanitary supervision of livestock products exist in Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Bone, Elida, and Maison-Carree and are full-time operations. In other areas superficial inspection is carried out by regional Government Veterinary Service employees and private practitioners on a parttime basis.

The Pasteur Institute in Algiers, an autonomous institution, supplies the bulk of the country's veterinary biological requirements and has sufficient veterinary staff to conduct some animal disease investigation and detach a veterinarian to one of the government institutes.

The livestock economic conditions in Algeria prevent the development of a large-scale private veterinary practice system. A few veterinarians do operate practices in the major municipalities and conduct some work among the advanced livestock producing farms. 2/ 4/ 5/ 15/ 17/ 24/



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## b. Legal controls

(1) Licensure -- A diploma from a French veterinary college is required for veterinary employment or practice in Algeria. h/ 8/

(2) Quarantine -- There is little importation of livestock into Algeria except for a few breeding animals. Such animals must be accompanied by health certification and are generally held at breeding stations for a prescribed period. Port inspection facilities are maintained at Oran and Algiers. h/ 6/ 12/

(3) Inspection -- Veterinary inspection within the officially designated municipalities is superficial and virtually no inspection is performed in other smaller municipalities or rural areas. h/ 15/ 19/ 24/

c. Professional veterinary organizations -- The Society of Veterinarians and Zootechnicians (Societe Veterinaire de Zootechnie), which includes nearly all of the veterinarians in Algeria, publishes a quarterly Bulletin intended to bring current veterinary material to the attention of its members. h/ 6/

d. Veterinary research -- Very little effective veterinary research has been accomplished in Algeria. The emphasis in research has been primarily directed toward improved animal breeding, but results have not been outstanding nor applied beyond the government breeding stations or better herds or flocks near the Mediterranean coastal area. 2/ h/ 14/ 15/ 24/

f. Emergency veterinary services -- There is no evidence indicating the existence of planned emergency veterinary services. The recent terrorist outbreaks and withdrawal of veterinarians from many areas have reduced the capability of the veterinary service to effectively handle critical animal disease outbreaks. 2/ 15/ 19/ 23/

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## 2. Military veterinarians

French military veterinarians attached to military units in a few areas are responsible for routine remount service duties, some inspection of troop food supply, and a limited amount of laboratory investigation of animal diseases possibly communicable to personnel of the armed forces. 6/ 26/

## E. Veterinary manpower

About 140 qualified veterinarians are active in Algeria. While this veterinary force is not large in respect to the livestock population, effective utilization of subordinate technical personnel would ordinarily make control of animal diseases reasonably adequate. Difficult environmental, transportation, and social conditions have interfered with the development of efficient animal disease control programs.

The entire veterinary staff originates from French veterinary colleges. A few technicians and veterinary assistants are locally trained in agricultural schools or zootechnical centers. 4/ 6/ 8/ 9/ 19/

## F. Veterinary medical facilities

The Pasteur Institute of Algeria (Institut Pasteur D'Algerie), Algiers (36-47 N - 3-03 E), maintains veterinary sections responsible for animal disease investigation, diagnosis, and biological production. The laboratory facilities devoted to veterinary problems are reasonably adequate. Most of the country's veterinary biological requirements are produced at this Institute. Research accomplishments have not been significant.

The Institute of Agriculture for Algeria (Institut agricole de Algerie), Maison-Carree (36-43 N - 3-06E), includes zootechnical and veterinary laboratories

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considered the principal veterinary research unit in Algeria. However, the chief research activity is apparently devoted to animal husbandry. In addition, the Agriculture Institute supervises several experimental breeding stations.

The Livestock Production Service has established a Livestock Breeding Station at Kroubs (36-16 N - 6-42 E), Department of Constantine. This, like the Experiment Stations of the Agriculture Institute, functions primarily as an animal husbandry unit. 4/ 5/ 6/ 9/

#### G. Veterinary supplies and materials

The Pasteur Institute in Algiers is the primary source of veterinary biologicals for animal disease investigation and control. In general, the annual vaccine and sera production of the veterinary section of this Institute considerably exceeds the amount applied in field disease investigation or control. A certain amount of biologicals not regularly required are imported from France. A number of commercial firms, in most instances French branch companies or representatives, import and distribute veterinary pharmaceuticals and antibiotics. The failure to develop an effective animal disease prevention or control program as a result of adverse economic, social and topographical conditions, has limited the wide application of veterinary products. Lack of veterinary medical supply is essentially a regional distribution problem, although an occasional shortage of infrequently required products may occur. 4/ 5/ 6/ 9/ 15/

#### H. Reference data

No graphics or charts are included in this contribution.

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I. Comments on principal sources

1. Evaluation - Information on veterinary problems was reasonably adequate as late as 1956. The political difficulties arising after 1956 obviously curtailed veterinary activities, and the influence on the animal disease incidence or the effectiveness of veterinary sanitary measures cannot be accurately assessed currently.

French and Algerian veterinary or agricultural publications provide information on the organization and deployment of veterinary services, the extent of disease investigation and the volume of biological production. Information on the character and purpose of research is vague. United States Government livestock and agricultural despatches furnish evidence of the effect of the political strife on development of the livestock industry.

2. List of sources (in order of importance)

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3. . Algerie 54 (Algeria 1954). Special issue of the Monthly Overseas Encyclopedia. Paris. 1954. (Unclassified)
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5. Sagne, Jean. L'Algérie Pastorale (Algerian Agriculture). Algiers. 1950. (Unclassified)
6. United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization/Office of International Epizootics. Animal Health Yearbook 1958. Rome. 1959. (Unclassified)

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