



**Fort Dodge Animal Health**

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## **West Nile Virus Reported in Italy**

The Italian Government has confirmed the first case of West Nile virus (WNV) in a horse this year. The infected horse is in Correggio, a small town in the northern Italian province of Emilia Romagna. Correggio is about 60 km from Ferrara, the source of the 2008 outbreak which affected about 70 horses and two humans. This new case has appeared six weeks earlier in the season than last year's outbreak and confirms that WNV is endemic to Italy.

WNV is an arthropod-borne virus transmitted by mosquitoes, including the *Culex*, *Aedes* and *Anopheles* species, which circulate in Europe. The reservoir hosts are birds with wild birds believed to spread the disease during migration. The disease causes significant mortality in birds and can be transmitted to mammals and humans via mosquito bites. Horses are an important indicator of the presence of the virus as they may show symptoms of infection including neurological encephalitis. The incubation period is 3 to 15 days and the mortality rate among horses showing clinical illness has been reported to be as high as 40 per cent.

There is no cure for WNV but Fort Dodge Animal Health launched the first equine WNV vaccine in Europe, Duvaxyn WNV earlier this year. Horses can survive with aggressive nursing therapy though some suffer permanent neurological defects. Although the virus cannot be transmitted horse to horse, nor from horse to humans, any unvaccinated horse is at risk.

Commenting on the new WNV case in Italy, Helen Barnes, European Equine Business Manager for Fort Dodge, said: "It's another grim reminder of the threat this disease poses to the equestrian industry in Europe.



“With major events, such as the ‘Venice All Stars International’ competition less than eight weeks away, we advise those planning to travel with their horses to Europe, particularly to regions such as Italy and Hungary where cases of WNV have recently been confirmed, to discuss a preventive health strategy for WNV with their vets.

“With little current natural immunity among the equine population in Europe, the consequences of a major outbreak could be devastating. Further information can also be found at [www.westnile.eu](http://www.westnile.eu).”

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**Note to editors:**

Fort Dodge Animal Health, a global leader in vaccine development, was the first company to develop and fully licence a WNV vaccine, West Nile-Innovator™, to protect horses against this potentially deadly disease. An inactivated whole virus vaccine, it was the only vaccine available in the United States at the height of the 2002 outbreak, which affected 15,000 horses. The US Department of Agriculture credited the vaccine with contributing to the 70 per cent decline in US equine West Nile cases since the height of the outbreak. WNV is now considered endemic in all areas of North America.

West Nile-Innovator is licensed in Europe, under the brand name Duvaxyn WNV.

Fort Dodge also manufactures and markets a range of other products for equine, livestock and small animal markets. Key products include Equest® horse wormer brands; Duvaxyn® equine vaccines; Cydectin® cattle and sheep wormer; Guardian™SR heartworm injection and the Poulvac® and Suvaxyn® range of poultry and pig vaccines.

*The statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such*



*statements. These risks and uncertainties include, without limitation, the inherent uncertainty of the timing and success of, and expense associated with, research, development, regulatory approval and commercialization of our products and pipeline products; government cost-containment initiatives; restrictions on third-party payments for our products; substantial competition in our industry, including from branded and generic products; emerging data on our products and pipeline products; the importance of strong performance from our principal products and our anticipated new product introductions; the highly regulated nature of our business; product liability, intellectual property and other litigation risks and environmental liabilities; uncertainty regarding our intellectual property rights and those of others; difficulties associated with, and regulatory compliance with respect to, manufacturing of our products; risks associated with our strategic relationships; economic conditions including interest and currency exchange rate fluctuations; changes in generally accepted accounting principles; trade buying patterns; the impact of legislation and regulatory compliance; risks and uncertainties associated with global operations and sales; and other risks and uncertainties, including those detailed from time to time in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our current reports on Form 8-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and annual report on Form 10-K, particularly the discussion under the caption "Item 1A, Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 29, 2008. The forward-looking statements in this press release are qualified by these risk factors. We assume no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.*

**For further information:**

Fort Dodge Animal Health  
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