Role of the Turkish Veterinary Services in Food Safety

Animal Health Services Department
General Directorate of Protection and Control
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

OIE Food Safety Seminar
22-24 April 2009, Sofia-BULGARIA
In total 27,703 establishments

- Flour and Flour Products: 69.21%
- Meat Industry: 2.10%
- Oil and Margarine: 2.79%
- Sugary Products: 3.65%
- Dairy Industry: 7.77%
- Processed Fruits and Vegetables: 3.95%
- Meat Industry: 2.10%
- Fisheries and Aquaculture: 1%
- Other: 5.53%
FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

- Bovine Holdings : 591,055
- Ovine and Caprine Holdings : 57,094
- Poultry Holdings : 10,396
- Red Meat Slaughterhouses : 965
- Poultry Slaughterhouses : 95
OBJECTIVES OF FOOD SAFETY POLICY

- To ensure the supply of safe food
- To protect human health
- To accommodate consumer concerns
- To integrate food safety related services within a single competent authority
- To implement rules effectively
Turkey has adopted the EU integrated food safety approach “from the farm to the fork”, which includes:

- Animal Health
- Animal Welfare
- Plant Health
- Food Safety
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)
General Directorate of Protection and Control (GDPC)

- Food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary policies
- Primary production
- Approval and registration of establishments producing food of animal origin
- Issuance of production licences for foodstuffs and food contact materials
- Registration of retails and consumption places
- Official food controls
- Inspection, monitoring, surveillance and traceability of foodstuffs
- Export and import controls
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES AND COMPETENCIES (II)

Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Natural spring and mineral water and foods for special medical purposes
- MoH reserves the right to intervene in emergency public health situations

Municipalities and Private Provincial Administrations
- Issuance of working licences and food register numbers for food establishments
- Issuance of licences for the establishment and operation of food analysis laboratories
CONTROL SYSTEM

The GDPC is empowered with food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary controls through:

- 81 Provincial Agriculture Directorates
- 846 District Agriculture Directorates
- 39 Provincial Control Laboratories
- 8 Veterinary Control and Research Institutes
- 1 Food Control and Agricultural Research Institute
- 4 Plant Protection Research Institutes
- 6 Border Inspection Posts
LEGAL BASIS (I)

Laws

- Decree-law on the Establishment and Administrative Functions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- Animal Health Law No. 3285
- Plant Health Law No. 6968
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Law No. 1380
- Feed Law No. 1734
- Food Law No. 5179
- Municipality Law No. 5393
- Metropolitan Municipality Law No. 5216
- Private Provincial Administration Law No. 5302
LEGAL BASIS (II)

Main Implementing Regulations (IRs)

- IR on Animal Health Control
- IR on Plant Quarantine
- IR on Feed
- IR on Fisheries and Aquaculture
- IR on the Establishment, Operation and Inspection of Livestock Holdings
- IR on Food Safety and Food Quality Inspection and Controls
- IR on the Turkish Food Codex
- IR on the Operation and Inspection of Production Plants for Red Meat and Red Meat Products
- IR on the Operation and Inspection of Production Plants for Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products
- IR on the Establishment and Functions of Control Laboratories
VETERINARY SERVICES (I)

Central Administration (GDPC)

- Animal Health Services Dept.
- Animal Movement and Quarantine Dept.
- Public Health Dept.
- Veterinary Drugs Section
- 52 Veterinarians
VETERINARY SERVICES (II)

Local Administration

a. Province and District Directorates
   - Animal Health Section
   - Control Section
   - 2647 veterinarians and 2009 veterinary paraprofessionals

b. Veterinary Control and Research Institutes
   - 234 veterinarians and 150 laboratory workers

c. Municipalities
   - 680 veterinarians
## VETERINARY BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Turkish Liras</th>
<th>USD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
<td>5,645,161</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>7,500,000</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>10,725,000</td>
<td>7,150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>13,666,400</td>
<td>9,761,714</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>12,822,600</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>17,050,000</td>
<td>12,800,300</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>14,800,000</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>23,500,000</td>
<td>17,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>23,800,000</td>
<td>20,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>25,500,000</td>
<td>16,666,666</td>
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ROLE OF VETERINARY SERVICES (I)

- **Registration of Livestock Holdings**
  
  Entry into the TURKVET database.

- **Inspection of Livestock Holdings for Animal Health and Animal Welfare**

  Twice a year, based on risk analysis.
Animal Health Controls at Farm Level

- Control, eradication and surveillance of animal diseases in accordance with annual national programme for combat with animal diseases and pests

- General control measures in case of outbreaks (zoning, quarantine, movement control/restriction, culling and compensation)

- Control programmes for bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and salmonellosis and certification of TB and BR free holdings
# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Disease</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rinderpest</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Foot and Mouth Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bovine tuberculosis *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bovine brucellosis *</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) *</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Anthrax *</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rabies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sheep and Goat Pox</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ovine and Caprine Brucellosis *</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Peste petits des ruminants (PPR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bluetongue</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>African Horse Sickness</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ruam</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Dourine</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Equine Infectious Anaemia</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Vesicular stomatitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Equine encephalomyelitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Avian Influenza *</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Newcastle Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pullorum Disease (S. pullorum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Fowl typhoid (S. gallinarum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Scrapie *</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Feline Spongiform Encephalopathy (FSE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>American Foulbrood</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Bonamiosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Marteiliosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Viral Haemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Crayfish Plague</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Foodborne Notifiable Diseases
Veterinary Control and Research Institutes

- Diagnosis of diseases, identification of pests
- Manufacture of veterinary biological products
- Control of veterinary biological products
- Quality control of veterinary drugs
- Monitoring for the detection of residues or substances in live animals and animal products
Veterinary Control and Research Institutes
ROLE OF VETERINARY SERVICES (IV)

- Slaughterhouses
  - Issuance of working permits for and registration of slaughterhouses
  - Inspection of public and private slaughterhouses by official veterinarians
  - Compulsory appointment of accredited veterinarians at slaughterhouses
  - Ante-mortem examination of slaughter animals and meat inspection
  - Entry of eartag numbers of slaughtered cattle into the TURKVET database
Food Plants

- Issuance of working permits for and registration of red meat and poultry meat cutting and processing plants

- Inspection of these plants by official veterinarians
Monitoring for Detection of Residues and Substances in Live Animals and Animal Products

A. Detection of Prohibited Substances in Live Animals

- Communiqué No. 2003/18 on Hormones and Similar Substances Subject to Certain Requirements and Prohibited to be Administered to Food Animals
  - Prohibition of use of hormonal substances for growth promotion in farm animals
  - Regulation of use of certain substances for therapeutic and zootechnical purposes
  - Prohibition of therapeutic and zootechnical treatments during fattening

- Communiqué No. 2003/21 on the Prohibition of Bovine Somatotropin
  - Prohibition of the marketing and administration of BST

- Circular Order No. 2005/74 on Control of Drug Use in Food Animal Holdings
  - Registers to be kept on the holding
B. Monitoring of Residues in Animal Products

- Fish
- Poultry meat
- Honey
- Milk
ROLE OF VETERINARY SERVICES (VIII)

NATIONAL RESIDUE CONTROL PLANS (NRCPs)

- The GDPC is the central authority and is responsible for:
  - preparation of annual plans
  - coordination of activities
  - collection of data
  - supervision of implementation

- Province and District Agriculture Directorates are involved in the implementation of NRCPs at local level and are responsible for:
  - monitoring and follow-up
  - control and inspection
  - examination of results
  - notification and legal action
ROLE OF VETERINARY SERVICES (IX)

LABORATORY ANALYSES

**Etlik CVRI**
Stilbens/steroids, antithyroid agents, resorcylic acid lactons, beta agonists, pesticides

**Bornova VCRI**
Antibacterials, CAP and nitrofurans

**Pendik VCRI**
Nitroimidazoles, anthelmentics, anticoccidials and imidazoles, NSAID, fumagilin in honey and confirmation of chloramphenicol and nitrofurans

**İzmir PCL**
Heavy metals and naphtelene analysis in honey

**Ankara PCL**
Lead (Pb) in milk, mycotoxins and dyes (malachite green in fish)
ROLE OF VETERINARY SERVICES (X)

SANCTIONS IN CASE OF INFRINGEMENT (I)

Pursuant to Law No. 3285 on Animal Health Control

- In case of the detection of an illegal substance during farm inspections:
  - the unauthorized substance is confiscated
  - fine is imposed

- In case live animals are sent to the slaughterhouse prior to the completion of the withdrawal periods of drugs administered:
  - the slaughtering of animals is prevented
  - the animals are placed under official control until the completion of the withdrawal period
In case food businesses do not fulfil responsibilities and/or traceability:
- relevant responsibilities are demanded to be met
- traceability is demanded to be implemented
- fine is imposed

In case of the detection of unauthorized treatment or exceeding MRLs in animals and/or animal products:
- products are withdrawn from the market
- fines, penalty of imprisonment, and confiscation is imposed
ROLE OF VETERINARY SERVICES (XII)

Foreign Trade

- Determination of quality and animal health conditions for the foreign trade of live animals and unprocessed animal products.
- Determination of principles and methods for the import and export procedures of live animals and unprocessed animal products and issuance of relevant documents, excluding those required for breeder animals.
- Coordination and inspection of the work of Warehouses and Customs Veterinary Directorates.
- Risk analyses of trade partners, implementation of required measures, determination of quarantine conditions.
COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES

- Entry of food inspection and control data into the Food Safety Information System (GGBS Database)
- Preparatory work for the linking of TURKVET with GGBS
- Classification of food plants according to EU standards
- Design and implementation of HACCP plans in food plants
- Preparatory work for the accreditation of the food control system according to ISO 17020
- Preparatory work for development of RASFF
- Risk analyses of trade partners, implementation of required measures, determination of quarantine conditions
2009 “FOOD YEAR” IN TURKEY

To communicate the farm to the fork food safety concept and create public awareness MARA initiated the “Safe Food for Healthy Lives” campaign and declared 2009 as the FOOD YEAR!

A call center (ALO GIDA 174) became operational in February 2009 for consumer complaints.

Based on the calls received, the food safety map of Turkey will be laid down and an action plan will be developed.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The GDPC aims transparency and cooperation

- Notifications to the OIE (WAHIS)
- Voluntary notifications to the EU (ADNS)
- PVS Evaluation of Turkey by the OIE
CONCERNS

- Competencies of professions involved in food safety (veterinarians, fisheries engineers, agriculture engineers, food engineers)

- Different food safety structuring in countries

- Need for international food safety standards for animal products to be developed by the OIE
THANK YOU