Export market recovery in the face of disease outbreaks: a summary of findings for various diseases and species

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In some countries, the livestock sector is heavily dependent on income generated from exports. During or after disease outbreaks, trade bans may be imposed by trading partners and some countries may self-impose export bans. This loss of customers may extend the time for a country’s export market to recover from a disease outbreak. Other factors such as disease type, product type and value, world supply, disease management timelines, outbreak size and duration, and country credibility may all influence the length of market recovery. In addition, political changes, price changes, weather, consumer response, and many other factors can have an impact on the length of export market recovery. Over the last decade and a half, countries throughout the world have experienced disease outbreaks that affect cattle, poultry, and swine. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has guidelines for regaining free status for diseases of paramount concern. Many of these guidelines state a three to six month timeline after utilizing a stamping-out policy. Countries in Asia, Europe, North America, and South America all experienced outbreaks of disease over the stated time period. The species affected included cattle, poultry, and swine. An evaluation of the impacts of 8 different diseases affecting these species in 16 countries is presented in the analysis. An analysis of time elapsed from the announcement of a livestock disease outbreak until a country regains its international market can inform other countries of the potential impacts following an outbreak. Analysis shows that export markets can take longer than three to six months for export revenues to return to pre-outbreak levels. In some cases export markets may not recover. This work focuses on the drivers of differences in recovery times. The analysis shows that recovery time is dependent on the disease, the species impacted, and the trading partners of the affected countries.