

AVIS Portal: The Fact Sheet (WVC 2005)



ADVANCED VETERINARY INFORMATION SYSTEM

General Editors: Dr. Bill Geering, Dr. Tony Garland, Dr. Mark Rweyemamu
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AVIS: The Advanced Veterinary Information System Portal

The AVIS System was initiated in 1992 to pioneer the creation of peer-reviewed, "gold-standard" multimedia reference and training materials for professionals, stakeholders and decision-makers in animal health and production. Programs are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. 2004 saw the publication of the most comprehensive revision to date. From 2005, AVIS programs are available to subscribers on-line, through the AVIS Portal, as well as on CD or DVD. With the introduction of the on-line edition comes a commitment to continuous update, on approximately a quarterly basis. The goal is to bring the expert, and the expertise, to the point of need.



The Expert at the Point of Need



AVIS Edition 2004-05

AVIS is pleased to announce that the revised and updated 2004 edition has been updated again in 2005. The 2005 edition takes into account extensive feedback from professional users in the field and the training settings, as well as opening up new approaches to risk analysis and risk management for the veterinary public service professional and for other stakeholders. The recurrent theme is global interdependence in dealing with animal infectious diseases, and the need for interoperability of systems.

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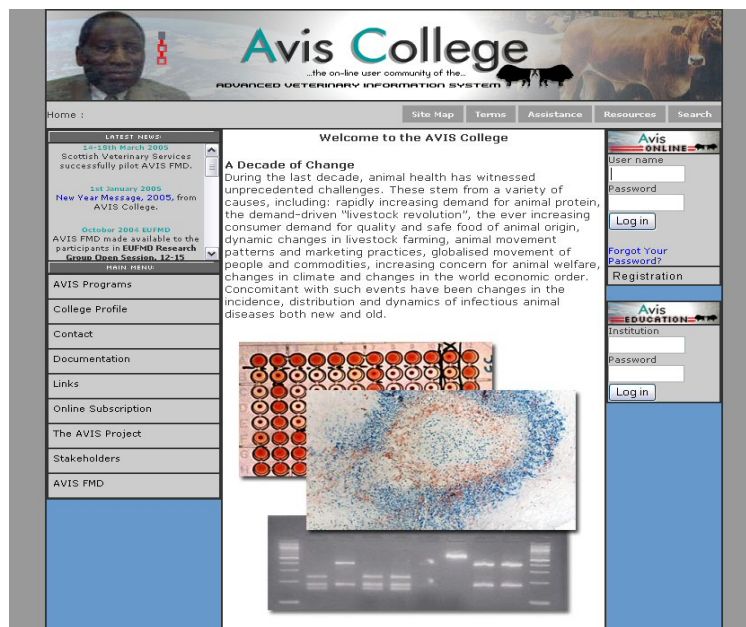
- It digests the animal health, managerial and technical lessons learned from recent epidemics of FMD, BSE, CSF, PPR and the various avian diseases, which have caused substantial problems in the past three years.
- The impact of a disease is presented in its social, economic, rural livelihoods, human health and animal welfare dimensions.
- New modules have been added on risk management, contingency planning and emergency response.
- The image library has been extensively enriched, and video sequences are introduced for the first time.

Millions of users world-wide have also shown that AVIS programs are well suited to public information and communication. FMD alone attracted 11 million online users when it was made available at www.aleffgroup.com at no charge during the 2001 outbreaks.

AVIS College: www.aviscollege.com

President: Dr. Apostolos Rantsios **General Editor:** Dr. William Geering
Technical Director: Dr. Mark Rweyemamu

AVIS programs are written by leading experts from all over the world, led from the AVIS College in London. Initiated in 1992, the College brings together an experienced team of leading experts and practitioners as an oversight body for AVIS activities and publications. All AVIS programs are now kept under rolling review, and on-line versions are updated regularly. Programs are also subjected to independent peer review, and to field testing and user evaluations. All programs provide access to authoritative reference information, such as FAO Manuals and the expertise of the designated World Reference Laboratory.



AVIS Founders

AVIS Founders were:

BBSRC Institute for Animal Health, Compton and Pirbright, UK
 The Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome, Italy
 L'Office International des Epizooties, Paris, France
 Telos ALEFF Ltd., London, UK.

AVIS is now evolving as a free-standing entity, through the mechanism of the AVIS College.

AVIS: High Impact Diseases

The primary AVIS targets are High Impact diseases, such as FMD and Avian Influenza, Rabies and Brucellosis. A full list is found below.

Every high-impact disease is reviewed in an **Overview** module. Depending on the significance and complexity of that disease there are up to five further modules, each meeting the needs of a different stakeholder. A Resources module, containing maps, images, key documents, tools, checklists and useful links to other web-based resources enriches the whole program.

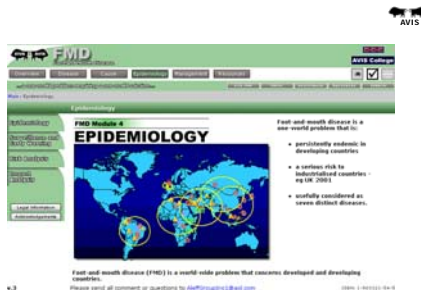
The screenshot shows the AVIS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'AVIS' and 'Advanced Veterinary Information System'. Below this, there are several icons and a search bar. The main content area features a central diagram with 'AVIS High Impact Diseases' in an orange oval at the center. Surrounding this central oval are six rectangular boxes: 'Production and Welfare' (top-left), 'Biosecurity' (top-right), 'Food Quality and Safety' (middle-left), 'Derivatives' (middle-right), 'Diagnostics' (bottom-left), and 'Trade' (bottom-right). To the left of the diagram, there are links for 'Legal Information' and 'Acknowledgements', and the ISBN number '1-903322-35-9'. Below the diagram, there are logos for OIE, IAH, and Aleff Group. The bottom section contains a welcome message and a copyright notice: '© AVIS 2005'.

Each module is also richly illustrated with maps, colour photographs, diagrams, and videos, while a wide variety of **Tools**, such as checklists and animations of key processes, support key work processes. These make the programs highly suited to real time professional use, as well as training. Powerful navigation aids and a search engine make the AVIS knowledge base easy to access.

Reference and Training User Testing

AVIS programs have been successfully tested in the field during 2005 in a wide range of countries and settings, from Scotland to Tanzania.

Overall satisfaction ratings average 4.2 (out of five) with the great majority of testers rating programs “essential” (5) or “very useful” (4).



SPECIAL EDITIONS

Special editions have been developed 1. for FAO and IAEA TCPs, 2. the new member countries of the European Union, 3. for Central and South America and 4. for individual countries such as Sudan, USA, Israel, Thailand and Poland. Such editions include national or regional documentation and direct access, in local languages to locally produced content. This content is co-reviewed with the AVIS Editors before inclusion.

Special Price for program evaluation

For veterinary services interested to evaluate programs at a field level, AVIS can offer a trial period at a special price. Evaluation can take place either on line or on CD, or a combination of the two. This has proved to be a very popular means of ensuring everyone has the opportunity to trial these programs before they are rolled out to a wider audience. Details on request.

Training

AVIS programs are already being widely used for training purposes; however, the adaptation process to a more formal training methodology is under way. We welcome enquiries for this particular type of use. We also seek collaboration with organisations who would be willing to work with us to assist in the instructional design and testing process.

AVIS: Addressing Stakeholder Needs

Different stakeholders in animal health and production have different needs, but common standards link all actions and interventions. The **Overview** module gives the non-specialist a rapid and authoritative introduction to the key issues concerning a given disease. Further modules address specific stakeholder needs:

- Livestock producers and farming communities
- Planners and decision-makers on the national and sub-national level
- National veterinary authorities and reference sites
- Regional field staff and extension services, including veterinarians
- Laboratory workers
- Epidemiologists and control specialists
- Personnel from enterprises and organizations involved in animal disease control, i.e. meat and dairy industry, vaccine producers, NGOs
- Veterinary students.

Sample AVIS Overviews at: www.fao.org/AGA/AGAH/EMPRES/GEMP.htm

AVIS PROGRAMS

- ❖ **Contagious Bovine PleuroPneumonia (6 modules)**
 - Overview
 - Disease
 - Cause
 - Epidemiology
 - Management
 - Resources
- ❖ **Foot and Mouth Disease (6 modules)**
 - Overview
 - Disease
 - Cause
 - Epidemiology
 - Management
 - Resources
- ❖ **Poultry Diseases (3 modules)**
 - Overview of Key Diseases
 - Poultry Hygiene
 - Newcastle Disease
- ❖ **Rabies (4 modules)**
 - Overview
 - The Disease
 - Prevention and Control
 - Resources
- ❖ **Rabia (Español)**
- ❖ **Rinderpest (6 modules)**
 - Overview
 - Recognizing Rinderpest
 - Diagnosing Rinderpest
 - Practical Guide for Field Personnel
 - Disease and Serological Surveillance
 - Picture, Print and Promote – Village Education
- ❖ **African Horse Sickness**
 - Overview
 - Resources
- ❖ **African Swine Fever**
 - Overview
 - Resources
- ❖ **Avian Influenza**
 - Overview
 - Resources
- ❖ **Bluetongue**
 - Overview
 - Resources
- ❖ **Brucellosis**
 - Overview
 - Resources
- ❖ **Classical Swine Fever**
 - Overview
 - Resources
- ❖ **Peste des Petits Ruminants**
 - Overview
 - Resources
- ❖ **Swine Vesicular Disease**
 - Overview
 - Resources
- ❖ **Tuberculosis**
 - Overview
 - Resources

Languages

AVIS is now working, where there is identified need, in English, Spanish and French. Rabies, for example, is available in English and Spanish. Other languages, such as Arabic are under active discussion. If you have a specific language requirement, please contact the AVIS office in London.

The Power and Ease of Multimedia

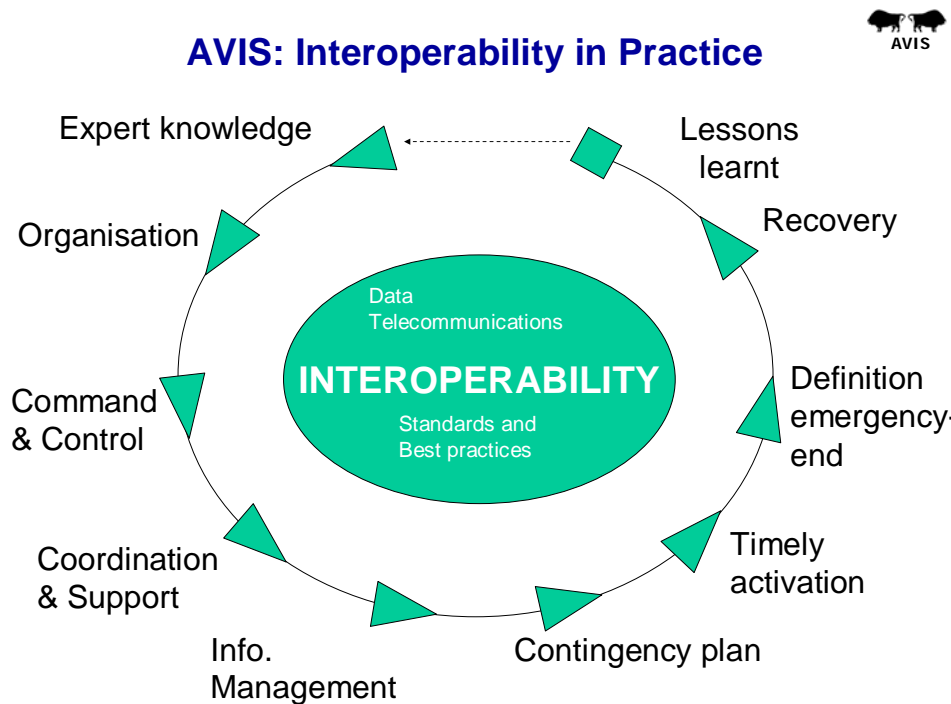
Multimedia technology puts users at the centre of an authoritative information web. Colour photographs, hotwords or hyperlinks, animations and maps make the knowledge-base easy to comprehend and navigate for the trainee or non-specialist.

Customisation

AVIS can customize programs for particular needs, such as local legal requirements, language, culture, or regional priorities. Discuss your needs with an AVIS officer – contact details below.

Promoting Interoperability

Promoting interoperability is a key objective for AVIS, both through effective knowledge management and through the increasing integration of live data and other essential management tools (such as direct access to contingency plans) into AVIS programs. In schematic for the objective may be represented as follows:



AVIS Associations and Collaborations

AVIS welcomes collaboration and association with complementary projects. Examples to date include:

AFSIS: (Advanced Food Safety Information System) General Editor, Dr. Apostolos Rantsios. For further information, visit www.afsis.com.

FAO EMPRES: Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP)
The objectives of AVIS are also coordinated with the FAO EMPRES action.
Planning: In order to prepare well for a possible animal disease outbreak, good planning is essential, to a high level of precision and detail.

Molecular Diagnostic Techniques: A companion series of programs is also being developed on diagnostic techniques derived from molecular biology. The first program, the **Overview**, was released in October 1999. A web-enabled version is also now available.

Support and Contacts

Technical Support

For technical support, please contact Dr. Mark Rweyemamu, AVIS Technical Director, at the AVIS Office, or by email AVISCollege1@aol.com.

Content Proposals

Contact Professor Julian Hilton, AVIS Commissioning Editor, jhilton@aleffgroup.com.

Enquiries and Sales

Contact Dr. Malika Moussaid, mmoussaid@aol.com or mmoussaid@aleffgroup.com.

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AVIS Pricing Policy and Discounts

Equity Pricing

AVIS has an "Equity Pricing" policy, based on capacity to pay. Substantial discounts are available to developing countries and educational establishments. Discounts may be combined. Programs may be purchased through subscription or a licence payment. Revenues from published programs are used to fund the development of new ones. The purchase of AVIS has been supported by a wide number of governmental, non-governmental and commercial organizations. These are gratefully acknowledged.