

Updated Situation Assessment No.14

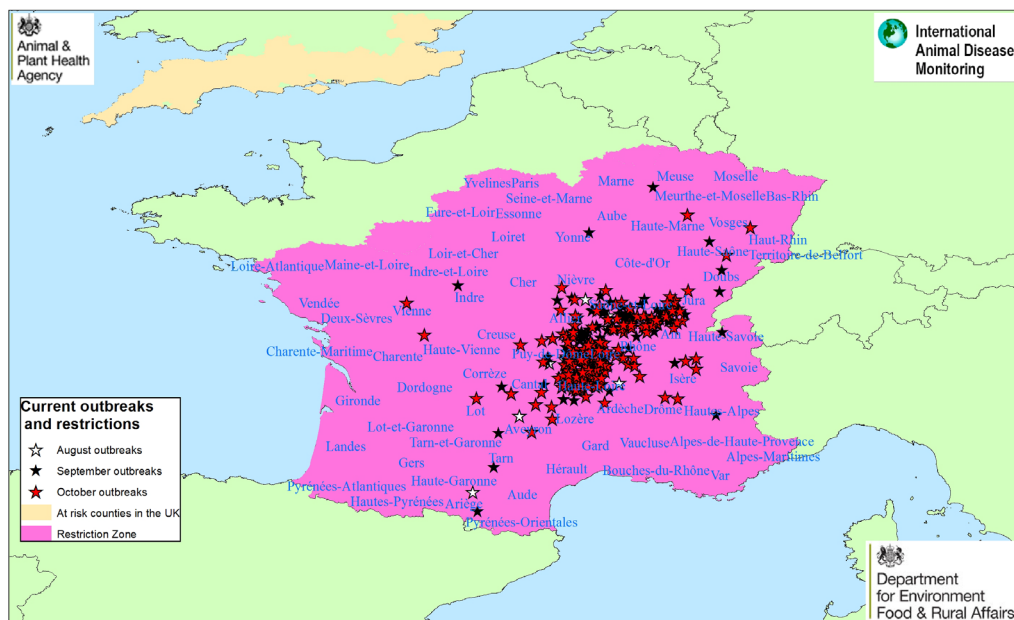
Bluetongue virus (BTV-8) in France

26th October 2016

Ref: VITT/1200 BTV-8 in France

Disease Report

France has reported two hundred and twenty nine (229) new outbreaks (since our last update on the 26th September) in the départements of Ain, Allier, Ardèche, Aveyron, Cantal, Charente Maritime, Creuse, Drôme, Deux Sèvres, Isère, Jura, Loire, Haute Loire, Lot, Lozère, Nièvre, Puy de Dôme, Rhône, Haute Saône, Saône et Loire, Savoie, Vosges and Yonne regions, making a total of 473 outbreaks this year (and 621 since the start of the epizootic in 2015 (OIE, 2016; see red stars on the map below). The vast majority of the cases were detected during active surveillance as part of pre-movement testing, and again, most were in cattle where just one or two animals tested positive out of the consignment (variable numbers). Two clinical cases were reported in the Loire and Saône et Loire regions. In one, a calf tested positive during routine movement tests and ten days later the mother showed clinical signs (milk drop, inappetence and pyrexia). In the second clinical case, eighteen of 54 sheep showed clinical signs of depression, inappetence, pyrexia and some ophthalmological signs (Bournez et al, 2016).



Map Prepared by IDM
 Absolute Scale 1:5,400,000

BTV-8 in France: outbreaks detected since August 2016 and current Restriction Zones* by date of map

Date prepared 25/10/2016

0 45 90 180 270 360 Km

* restriction zones are available on the French Min of Ag website
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/liste-des-departements-et-des-communes-classes-en-zone-reglementee-fco>

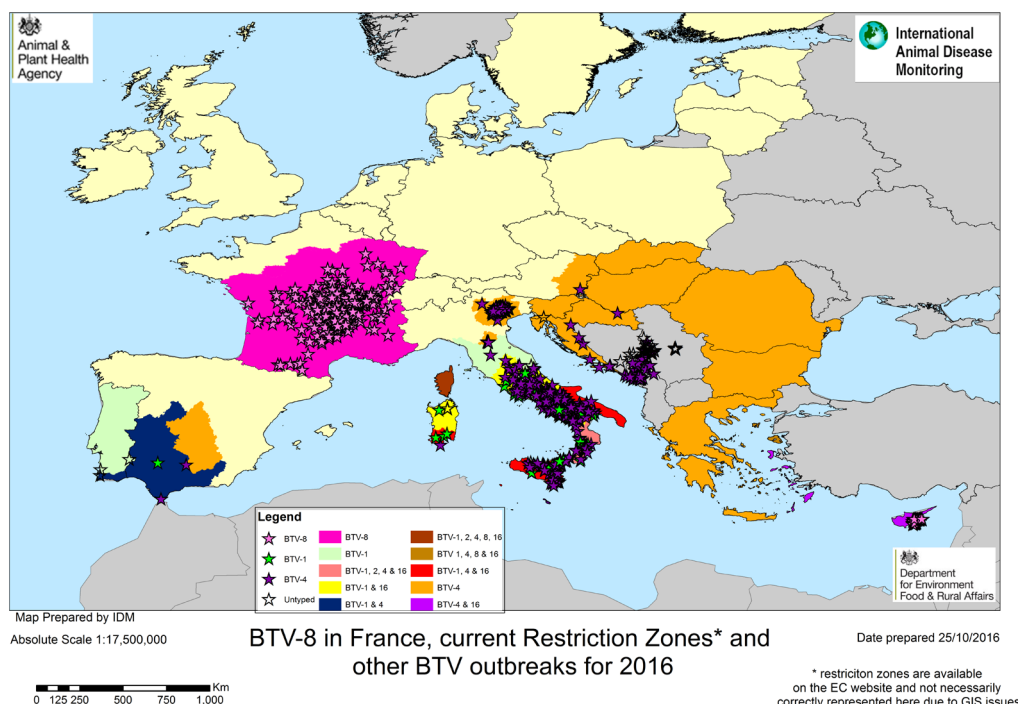
The extent of the restriction zone has not changed as a result of these cases and has been the same since April 2016.

Situation Assessment

France is continuing with monthly serological testing of sentinel cattle (between 12 and 48 months old) in the (BTV-free) north of the country or those regions on the boundary of the restriction zone. There have been no positive test results. The case in Meuse near the Belgium border was investigated and there was no indication of active virus circulation around the premises.

The temperature in the UK has dropped again over the last week. Average temperatures are below 15°C which will not prevent midge activity but will slow down the virus replication rate. The risk level however, cannot be reduced just yet and our own vector season can continue into November if there is a mild autumn. If disease were present in the free area in Northern France, then there have been suitable environmental and meteorological conditions for midges to have been blown over from these areas.

Elsewhere in Europe it is important to mention that BTV-8 is circulating in Cyprus – this is likely to be a result of incursion from the Middle East where the serotype is known to be present, but further sequence analysis will provide more information on that. In addition, BTV-4 is circulating in SE Europe, including a new focus of disease in North East Italy. Disease control measures and restrictions are in place.



Conclusion

Our risk level remains the same as our previous report, at medium, for this time of year. This level will probably reduce in the coming weeks and we will issue a full report when we do so, even though there have been a significant number of new cases reported in France

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Animal and Plant Health Agency
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in the last month. Animals can remain PCR positive for several weeks, so it is possible these new cases are a result of earlier virus transmission but when a pathogen causes few clinical signs, it is difficult to detect early cases.

We will continue to monitor the current situation in France and report any further updates from the French Authorities.

BTV-8 vaccine has been available for the GB market since mid-July, and the decision to vaccinate should be taken by the farmer, in consultation with their private veterinary surgeon.

For information on bluetongue and the vaccine availability in GB, see the announcement by the NFU at www.nfuonline.com/bluetongue

Author

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References

Bournez, L., Sailleau, C., Breard, E., Almeida, R.S. et al. (2016) Bilan de la situation relative a la FCO serotype 8 en France continentale, au 29 septembre 2016.
<http://www.plateforme-esa.fr/article/bilan-de-la-situation-relative-%C3%A0-la-fco-s%C3%A9rotype-8-en-france-continentale-au-29-septembre>

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http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/WI



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