Updated Situation Assessment No.15

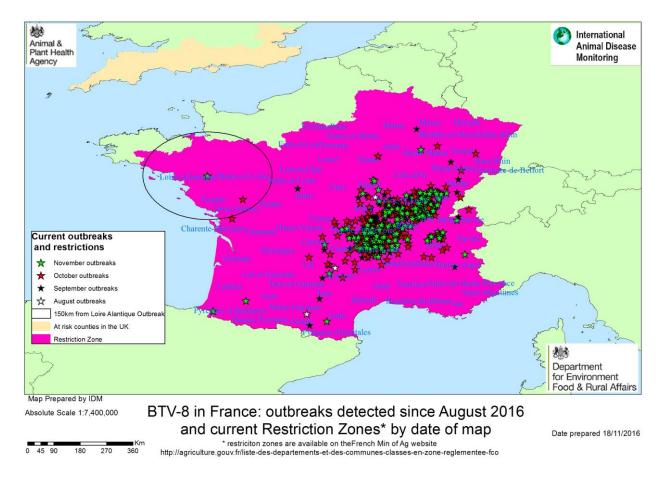
# Bluetongue virus (BTV-8) in France

18<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Ref: VITT/1200 BTV-8 in France

# **Disease Report**

France has reported two hundred and eighty three (283) new outbreaks in November, (309 since our last update on the 26<sup>th</sup> September) in the Départements within the restriction zone and in a new area, Loire Atlantique, making a total of 724 outbreaks during this season of virus circulation (since August 2016) (OIE, 2016; see green stars on the map below). All the new cases were in cattle where just one or two animals tested positive out of the total herd (variable numbers) and only one was a report of a dead individual animal.

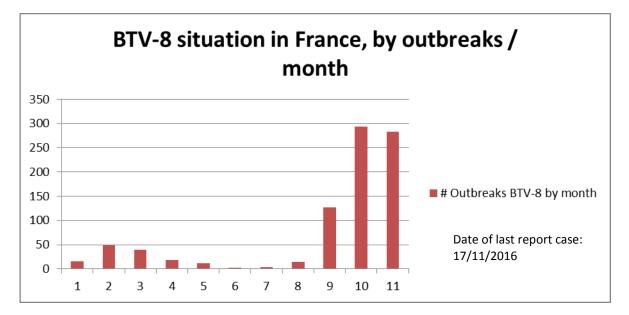


The extent of the restriction zone has changed as a result of these cases and is now just reaching the northern coast of France in a small region (Légifrance, 2016). The zone however still remains a significant distance from the UK coast.

### Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Animal and Plant Health Agency Veterinary & Science Policy Advice Team - International Disease Monitoring

# **Situation Assessment**

The table below shows the rise in cases of BTV-8 detected in France this year. The second year of circulation started in August 2016. However, it should still be noted that the number of clinical cases has not increased and we consider that still only a handful have been detected. Instead, the infected herds are being detected as a result of the wide surveillance for pre-movement testing which is taking place. The map above shows that the epicentre of the epizootic remains in the Central regions of France and that new foci of infection are not being reported in the north of the country.



Current Met Office measurements for the last few weeks and predictions going forward suggest that the average temperature in the UK and Northern France is dropping. Average temperatures are now well below 15°C which whilst it will not prevent midge activity during the warmest part of the day or around protected buildings, it will slow down the virus replication rate (the extrinsic incubation period) such that virus transmission now is unlikely. In addition, the wind direction is now predominantly north-westerly, which means according to the Met Office 'NAME' model, the wind assisted movement of midges from France to the UK is very unlikely. The risk level has therefore been reduced to LOW to reflect these meteorological conditions, even though the restriction is now at its closest to the UK that it has been this season.

# Conclusion

Our risk level has now been reduced to **LOW** to reflect the cold weather, wind direction and low likelihood of virus circulation in local midge populations in the UK.

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

#### Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Animal and Plant Health Agency Veterinary & Science Policy Advice Team - International Disease Monitoring

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 <u>www.nfuonline.com/bluetongue</u>

### Author

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### References

Légifrance (2016) Journal officiel "Lois et Décrets" - JORF n°0263 du 11 novembre 2016 <u>https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichJO.do;jsessionid=D370CD3D5A73C53E0A8C5916</u> <u>68B9BB5A.tpdila20v\_1?idJO=JORFCONT000033367664</u>

OIE (2016) Follow-up Report No. 48-51. http://www.oie.int/wahis\_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/WI



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