

## Updated Situation Assessment No.17

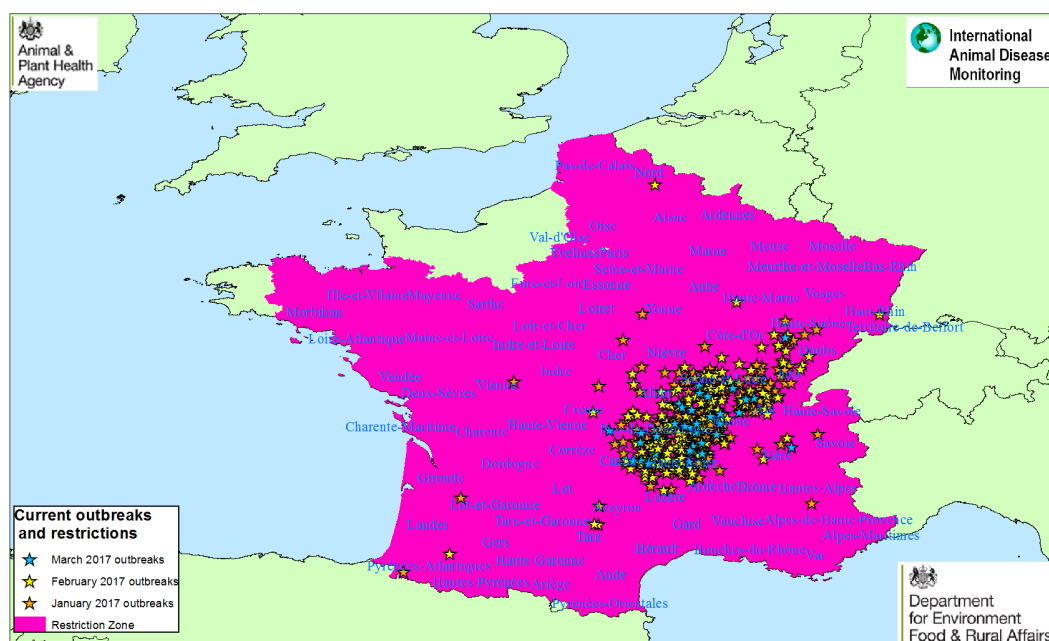
# Bluetongue virus (BTV-8) in France

10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Ref: VITT/1200 BTV-8 in France

## Disease Report

France has reported over 550 new BTV-8 positive animals since January 2017. The majority of these are a result of pre-movement testing which is in place, and the sentinel surveillance in cattle in the areas under disease restriction. Since our last update on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February BTV has been detected in the Nord département and as of the 17<sup>th</sup> February the restriction zone has increased to include the départements of the Nord, Pas-de-Calais, Somme, Oise and part of the Seine Maritime. Only 4 departments now remain free of BTV8 in France (Finistère, Calvados, Orne and Eure). The nearest case to the UK is still over 150 km away and therefore there are no restriction zones in the UK for bluetongue.



Map Prepared by IDM  
 Absolute Scale 1:7,400,000

**BTV-8 in France: outbreaks detected since January 2017 and current Restriction Zones\* by date of map**

Date prepared 15/03/2017

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-fo>

## Situation Assessment

The infected herds are being detected as a result of the wide surveillance for pre-movement testing which was taking place since July 2016. Serological surveillance was

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

also undertaken in 180 sentinel cattle aged 12 – 48 months from at least nine farms per department, designed to detect a prevalence of >5%. The map above shows that the epicentre of the epizootic remains in the Central regions of France. Clinical signs are only being observed very rarely.

Current low temperatures and wind direction mean the probability of incursion via infected midges from France to the UK is very low. Low temperatures mean the virus replication rate (the extrinsic incubation period) is longer than the life span of any midge and therefore that virus circulation is unlikely.

It is unclear at present whether the new case in the North is due to sentinel animals testing positive for the first time (which would be concerning as it would indicate virus circulation) or if these are animals which have recently moved. The latter is more likely given the current season and low temperatures. However this may increase the risk of incursion to the UK in coming months, as non-vaccinated animals can be moved into the North of France, which may mean new foci of circulating disease.

## **Conclusion**

The risk of BTV incursion into UK population remains at **LOW** to reflect the cold weather, wind direction and low likelihood of virus circulation in local midge populations in the UK. However this may change as the weather changes and if infected animals are moved to the North of the country.

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](http://www.nfuonline.com/bluetongue)

## **Author**

The International Disease Monitoring team

## **References**

OIE (2017) Follow-up Report No. 72

[http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/temp/reports/en\\_fup\\_0000023454\\_20170405\\_145213.pdf](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/temp/reports/en_fup_0000023454_20170405_145213.pdf)

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



© Crown copyright 2017

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/) or email [PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [iadm@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:iadm@apha.gsi.gov.uk)