

Updated Situation Assessment No.9

Bluetongue virus (BTV-8) in France

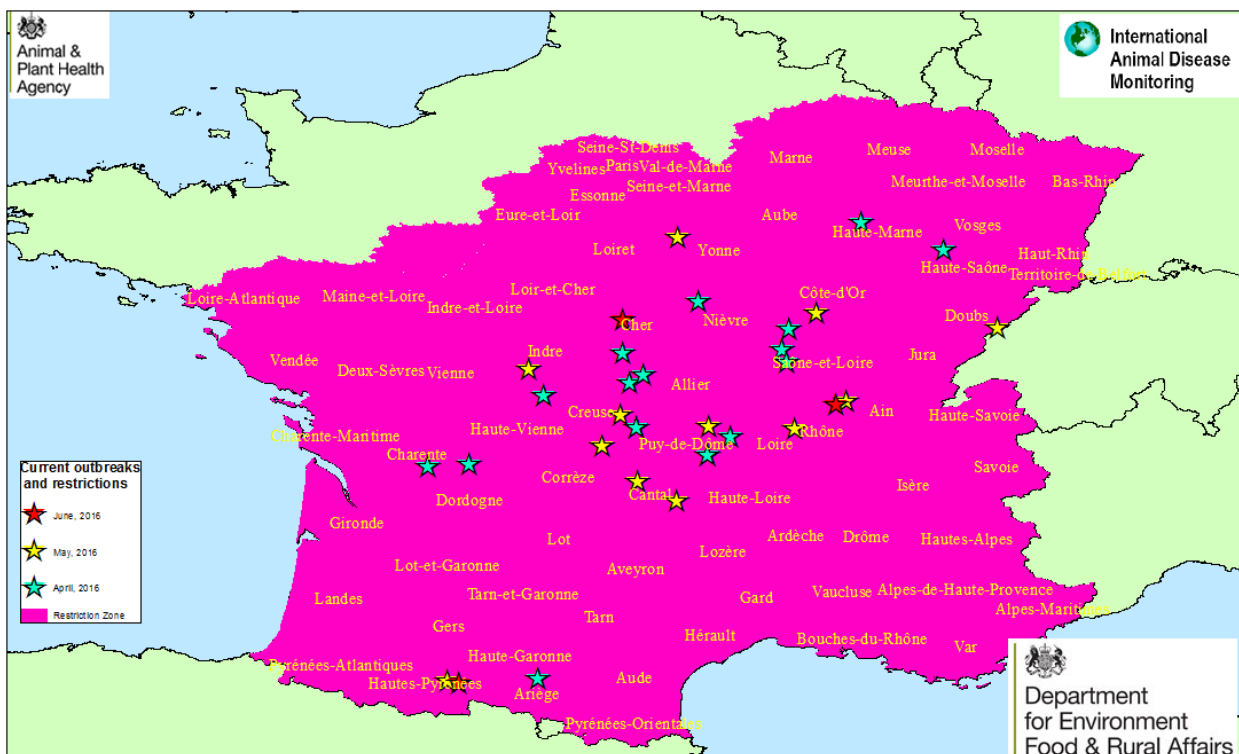
1st July 2016

Ref: VITT/1200 BTV-8 in France

Disease Report

France has now reported a total of 286 outbreaks of BTV-8, which is just 1 new outbreak since our last update in June 8th 2016 (see map). The latest case was a one day old calf in Haute Garonne, Southern France, which died and the carcass tested positive. The mother was clinically well. It is without doubt a case of transplacental transmission and not active transmission directly to the calf itself.

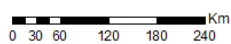
The restriction zones have not changed in coverage for several weeks now.



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

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

Date prepared 01/07/2016



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

Situation Assessment

There are no recent updates from the French Authorities on the disease situation. If infection was circulating widely, more clinical report cases could be expected but

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temperatures have only been increasing recently and current UK Met Office projections are for average summer temperature, with no signal for an unusually hot summer at present in the UK or in France.

The Belgian Authorities made available 2.1 million doses of BTV-8 vaccine in April, with a further 1.4 million doses for cattle and 300,000 for sheep in June and then 1.4 million for cattle in July. Belgian veterinarians must register and place orders with the competent authority to receive state funded vaccine (FAVV, 2016). In Germany the situation depends upon the individual State, however in general several vaccines for BTV-8 are available and producers may vaccinate animals with any approved vaccine on the basis of an FLI risk assessment and provided the authorities are notified (FLI, 2016). Spain has been vaccinating in the area south of Pyrenees bordering France, where there are an estimated 1 million cattle and two million small ruminants (Ministerio de Agricultura, 2016)

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

Conclusion

Our risk level remains the same at medium for this time of year. However if daily average temperatures increase in mainland France and disease starts to circulate towards the north or northeast of the country, so our risk level will start to increase. As we mentioned in the last outbreak update, BTV-8 is an unusual virus in the way it can be transmitted transplacentally, therefore young animals born to positive dams may be PCR positive and even transiently viraemic, even if the adult animals were infected weeks previously, however this is likely to be a very rare event. We will continue to monitor the current situation in France and report any further updates from the French Authorities.

Vaccine will be available for the GB market from mid-July onwards, but the decision to vaccinate should be with the farmer, in consultation with their private veterinary surgeon.

Authors

Dr Helen Roberts

References

FAVV (2016) Future rollout of the vaccination campaign against bluetongue. <http://www.favv-afsca.be/newsletter-da-vt/newsletter134.asp>

FLI (2016) Vaccination against Bluetongue. https://openagrar.bmel-forschung.de/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/Document_derivate_00014011/Impfempfehlung_BTV_2016-02-02.pdf

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<http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/prensa/noticias/-el-gobierno-autoriza-la-adquisici%C3%B3n-de-reactivos-de-diagn%C3%B3stico-y-vacunas-frente-a-la-lengua-azul/tcm7-405299-16>



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