

Updated Outbreak Assessment #5

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Europe

15 October 2025

Disease report

On 4 October 2025, Spain reported an outbreak of LSD for the first time in Catalonia, near the French border. Two more outbreaks have been reported in the same area of Spain. France reported two additional outbreaks since our last report. These occurred in Jura and are the first outbreaks in this department. Outbreaks also continue in Sardinia, Italy, with eight reported since our last update. Our previous outbreak assessment of the situation can be found at: [Lumpy skin disease in Europe - GOV.UK](#). The risk of incursion into the UK is maintained at **low (rare but can occur)**.

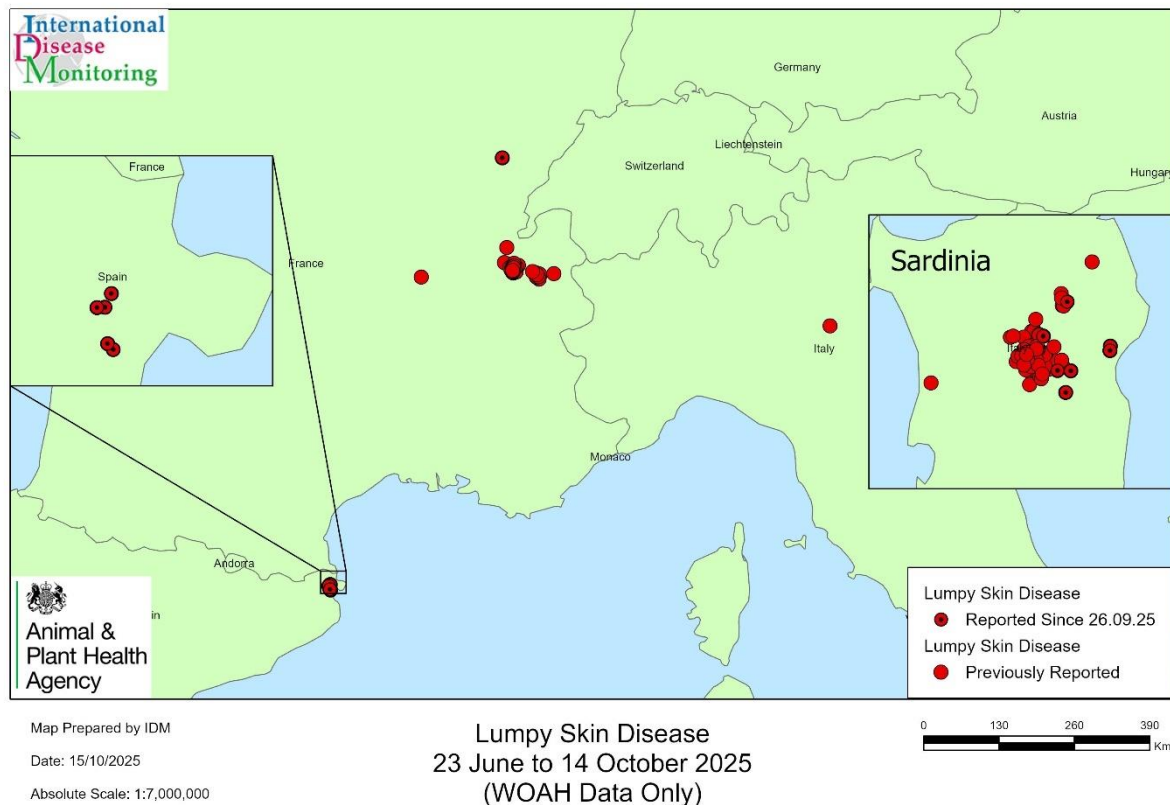


Figure 1: Reports of Lumpy Skin Disease in Europe. The map shows outbreaks of LSD reported to WOA in Europe from 23 June to 14 October. Four of the outbreaks had not been reported to WOA yet and are not on this map. Outbreaks that have occurred since our last update on 26 September contain a dot in the circle.

Situation assessment

The initial reports in Europe in July have been the first in Europe since 2018 (according to WOA reports). There has been spread of the disease in North Africa

since July 2024, in Algeria and Tunisia. Find our preliminary outbreak assessments for other regions: [Lumpy skin disease in North Africa and East Asia - GOV.UK](#)

Phylogenetic analysis on samples from France and Italy has demonstrated that the causative agent for LSD in both of these outbreaks is genetically very closely related, and they are also closely related to the 2018 Nigeria strain ([EURL](#)). However, due to a lack of genomic data from North African outbreaks (such as Libya, Algeria and Tunisia), it is difficult to fully understand the virus spread and evolution.

LSD is a pox virus mainly affecting cattle and water buffalo, which is notifiable to the WOA (Eom, Lee and Yoo, 2023). The virus is mainly transmitted by mechanical transmission by biting insect vectors.

The mortality rate is relatively low (typically 1-5%) (WOA) but may reach between 20 to 85% in naïve and young animals (Ochwo, VanderWaal, Munsey, et al., 2018). Infection decreases milk production, causes weight loss, infertility, damages the hides (WOA, 2025) and affects export trade.

There has never been a case of LSD reported within the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). Lumpy skin disease is difficult to control and eradicate in livestock by stamping out alone and often requires vaccination to eradicate the disease from the national herd.

Spain

On 3 October, Spain confirmed an outbreak of LSD on a breeding farm with 123 heifers located in Catalonia near the border with France. Three animals presented with fever and skin nodules. Testing confirmed they were positive for LSD ([Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food \(MAPA\)](#)).

A protection zone was established 20 km around the premises and a surveillance zone 50 km around it. Movement of cattle within these zones is restricted and clinical inspections on farms in the area are being carried out. According to media reports, all animals on the farm are being culled ([reuters.com](#)).

On 6 October another outbreak was confirmed in a dairy herd of 270 animals. The outbreak was located under 5 km away from the initial outbreak, so the restriction zones were not expanded.

On 8 October, a third outbreak was confirmed on another dairy farm with 262 animals, located about 1 km from the initial outbreak premises.

After the first outbreak, MAPA began procurement of vaccines. As of 9 October, 15,000 doses had been received in the country from the vaccine bank of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food Safety. Another 82,500 are expected to arrive soon. The vaccines will be used on all cattle and water buffalo within the 50 km surveillance zone, which includes 800 cattle farms and about 93,000 animals ([MAPA](#)). According to media reports, Spain has halted the export of live cattle to Morocco to prevent further spread of the disease ([yabiladi.com](#)).

On 14 October, MAPA reported that six new outbreaks had been detected. They all occurred in the same restriction zone, which has not been expanded. The new

outbreaks affected two feedlot farms with 8 and 30 animals, three meat production farms with between 17 and 575 animals, and one farm rearing heifers with 41 animals. According to media reports, the spread of LSD is concerning farmers in the Huesca province, located to the west of Catalonia, as the region produces 25% of the country's beef ([eleconomista.es](https://www.eleconomista.es)). Information is not yet available how the virus circulating in Spain compares to the sequences from strains in Italy and France.

France

Since our last update, France's Ministry of Agriculture and Food reported two more outbreaks, on the 11 and 13 of October. These were in a new department, Jura, located to the north of Ain where the previous two outbreaks were reported. The first outbreak was on a farm with 93 dairy cattle. According to media reports, a second outbreak in the Jura department was confirmed on 13 October 2025. This was in a herd of 91 dairy cattle (hebodo39.net). All animals will be culled to prevent spread of the disease. Given the second outbreak, controls in the new restricted zone will be strengthened, including monitoring the area with helicopters to check that cattle are not being moved (franceblue.fr, leprogres.fr). This brings the total number of outbreaks to 81 ([WAHIS event 6584](#)). These outbreaks in Jura are over 100 km away from the closest outbreak in Ain and outside of the current restriction zone. A new zone has been implemented around the new outbreaks. According to media reports, a vaccination campaign will soon be launched in the region (franceinfo.fr).

Since 6 September 2025, no new outbreaks have been detected in the Savoie and Haute-Savoie departments. Given this, France was allowed to lift the surveillance zones in the departments on 10 October 2025 ([Ministry of Agriculture and Food](#)). According to media reports, the zones are due to be lifted in Isère, to the west and southwest of Savoie, on 21 October 2025 if no further outbreaks are detected there (franceblue.fr).

Italy

Since our last report on 26 September, Italy has confirmed nine additional outbreaks of LSD in Sardinia (National Veterinary Epidemiological Bulletin ([BENV](#))), bringing the total number of outbreaks recorded to 75. These affected two new communes on the island. Two outbreaks occurred in the Dorgali commune and one in the Mamoiada commune. One of the outbreaks in Dorgali was nearly 25 km away from other outbreaks on the island.

Impact for Great Britain

Incursion of LSD into Great Britain could occur either by importing infected live cattle or mosquitos or biting flies carrying the virus entering the country and infecting animals present in the area.

No live cattle imports have been identified from any of these countries. Similar to Italy and France, Spain has now lost its LSD-free status. In response to this, on 6 October 2025 the UK suspended imports of several bovine commodities, including live animals, germplasm, raw milk and raw milk products, offal, hides and skin

(unless treated), and animal by products (unless undergoing specific heat treatment). More information can be found on [6 October 2025: Outbreak of lumpy skin disease in Spain - GOV.UK](#).

Additionally, from 12 April 2025 (due to the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in Europe earlier in the year) [it has been illegal for travellers to bring cattle, sheep, goat, and pig meat, as well as dairy products, from EU countries into Great Britain for personal use \(personal imports\)](#) with very limited exemptions (outlined on [Bringing food into Great Britain: Overview](#)). Live animals, germinal products and untreated wool, hair, skins and hides are not permitted for personal import under separate rules.

Biting flies carrying LSD into the UK is another potential route of incursion. Midges from the continent are capable of crossing the Channel and introducing bluetongue virus into the UK. Stable flies, a primary vector for LSD, are capable of being blown distances greater than 13 km (Showler 2015). EFSA estimates LSD can spread about 2 km a day, given the vector-borne nature of the disease (EFSA 2017). However, the location of the current outbreaks is too far away for flies to reach UK borders from natural dispersal. There is the possibility of flies being carried on vehicles from Italy, Spain, or France, but the risk of this is difficult to estimate.

Given the continued presence of LSD in Sardinia and the limited spread of outbreaks in France and Spain, the risk of incursion to GB is maintained at **low (rare but can occur)**.

Conclusion

Spain has reported its first outbreaks of LSD, with three reported so far in October. These occurred in the northeast of the country along the border with France. LSD has continued to spread in Sardinia and France, although at lower levels than previously reported, with a total of 156 outbreaks reported from both countries (WOAH and BENV). The second 100km jump of LSD in France emphasises the need for increased vigilance and early detection. The incursion of LSD into Italy follows spread in recent years in the North Africa region. Phylogenetic analysis has concluded that the outbreaks in France and Italy are of the clade 1.2 strain, which is the same clade that was circulating in Europe between 2015 and 2017. Current vaccines that are being used in the EU are expected to provide protection against the virus.

Since the 1 June 2024 there has been no trade in live bovine animals or bovine germplasm collected in Italy, France or Spain. Restrictions are being placed on specific bovine products from these countries in light of the LSD outbreaks mentioned above. The lifting or maintaining of restrictions are under constant review depending on information that we receive about the outbreaks.

Biting flies are capable of transmitting the disease, although the location of the outbreaks makes this risk pathway into Great Britain less likely.

Considering the ongoing outbreaks and circulation of LSD in these areas, uncertainty in the source of incursion and the slight spread, the current risk level of incursion of LSD is maintained at **low (rare but can occur)**. This reflects the continued

occurrence of outbreaks in these areas, which is mitigated by the restricted trade in cattle and bovine germplasm from these countries.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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