

Updated Outbreak Assessment #9

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Europe

3 March 2026

Disease report

Since our report last update on 13 January 2026, 2 outbreaks of LSD have been reported in Aragón, Spain, the first outbreaks in the country to have occurred outside of Catalonia. Additionally, one further outbreak was reported in Girona, Catalonia, on 19 January 2026, close to the previous cluster of outbreaks (map 1). Italy and France have not reported any outbreaks since our last update. The last outbreak in Sardinia was reported on 5 November 2025, and the restriction zones in Sardinia were lifted on 27 February 2026. Our previous outbreak assessment of the situation can be found at: [Lumpy skin disease in Europe - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lumpy-skin-disease-in-europe). The risk of incursion into the UK is maintained at **low (rare but can occur)**.

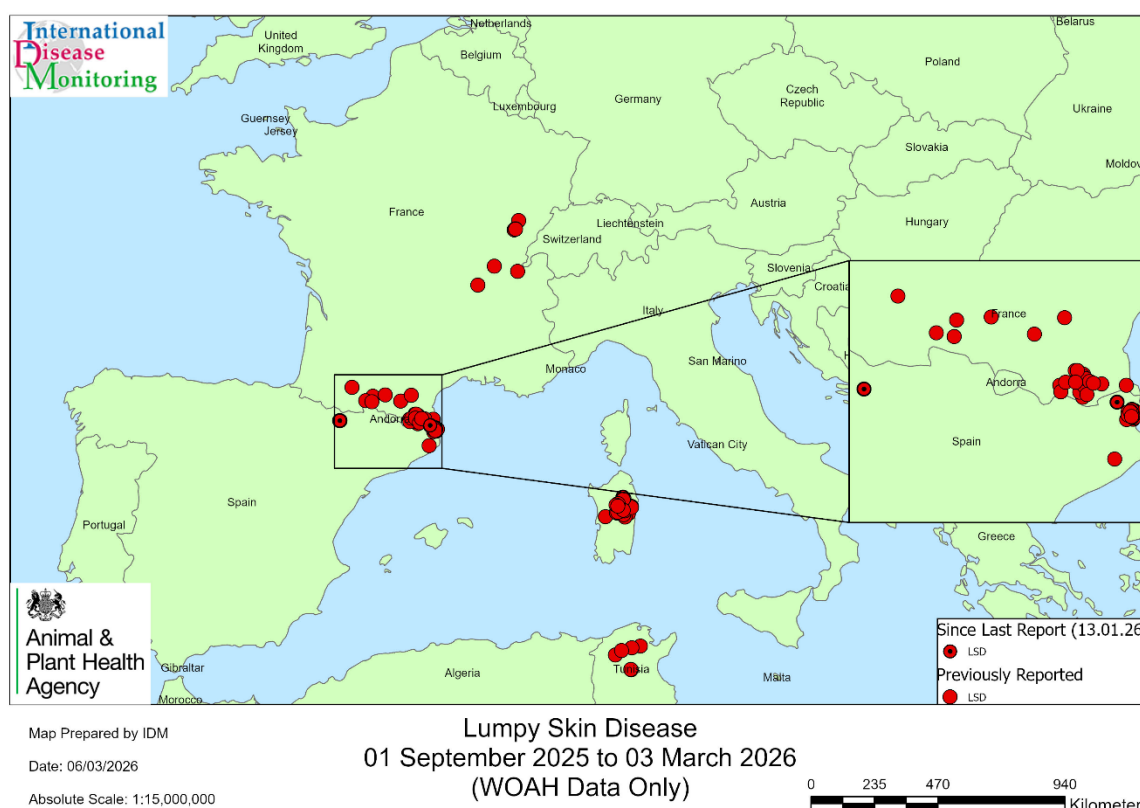


Figure 1: Reports of Lumpy Skin Disease in Europe. The map shows outbreaks of LSD reported to the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) in Europe from 01 September 2025 to 3 March 2026. New outbreaks since our last update are indicated by a dotted centre.

Situation assessment

The initial reports of LSD in Europe in July 2025 were the first in Europe since 2018 (according to WOAHA reports). There has been spread of the disease in North Africa since July 2024, in Algeria and Tunisia. Find our outbreak assessments for other regions: [Lumpy skin disease in North Africa and East Asia - GOV.UK](#)

LSD is a pox virus mainly affecting cattle and water buffalo, which is notifiable to the WOAHA (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%) (WOAHA) 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 (WOAHA, 2025) and affects export trade.

There has never been a case of LSD reported within the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). LSD 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 2 March 2026 Spain reported a new outbreak of LSD to WOAHA. According to WOAHA, the outbreak occurred on a farm of 133 cattle near to the town of Fiscal, in Huesca, Aragón. The outbreak was confirmed by the National Reference Laboratory. A second outbreak at a different farm in the same town, with 148 cattle present, approximately 100m from the farm in which the first outbreak occurred, was reported to WOAHA on 3 March 2026 ([WOAHA](#)). The two farms shared pasture with one another. Controls have been initiated around the farms in Huesca, including a 20km Protection Zone and 30km wider surveillance area, sanitary depopulation of the affected farms and disposal of the slaughtered carcasses, and the commencement of epidemiological research to try and identify risk contacts ([Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Spain](#)). These outbreaks are the first in Spain to occur outside of Catalonia.

Since our last update ([Lumpy Skin Disease in Europe – GOV.UK](#)), one additional outbreak in Catalonia has also been reported ([WOAHA](#)), close to the cluster of previous outbreaks in the region. Following this outbreak, stamping out measures were applied at the premises.

An emergency vaccination campaign began in Catalonia on 9 October 2025, after three LSD outbreaks had been confirmed. On 2 February 2026 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Feeding announced the expansion of vaccination zones to include Aragón, Navarre and the Basque Country. They reported that vaccination coverage in Catalonia had reached close to 100%. In the report to PAFF on 19-20 February 2026 ([PAFF](#)), it was reported that vaccination coverage in Aragón had reached 74.38%, with 70.27% of holdings vaccinated.

Whilst both of the more recent outbreaks reported here were in the vaccination zone, neither farm had completed a full course of vaccination due to presenting respiratory signs. Although all other farms in the area had received vaccinations by the

occurrence of the second outbreak, according to media reports, complete immunisation is not achieved until 21 days after the administration of the vaccine.

France

Since our last update, no new outbreaks have been reported in France. Our previous report provides detail concerning the most recent outbreaks ([Lumpy skin disease in Europe - GOV.UK](#)). According to media reports, on 12 January 2026, the French Minister of Agriculture for France declared that there were no active cases of LSD in the country. The total number of LSD outbreaks reported from France therefore remains at 117.

In the report to PAFF on 19-20 February 2026 ([PAFF](#)), vaccination in the South-West region, near the border with Spain, had reached 96.5% of all cattle.

In response to the recent outbreak in Aragón, Spain ([WOAH](#)), 26 municipalities in France in the region closest to the outbreak have been moved into a surveillance zone, and checks will be carried out at border crossings with Spain.

Italy

Italy has not reported a new outbreak since 5 November 2025 ([WAHIS event 6568](#)). According to December PAFF presentations, vaccination reached 97.8% of establishments with cattle in Sardinia, with 96.4% of eligible animals being vaccinated. The vaccination campaign in Sardinia was concluded on the 27 of November. The EU Commissioning Implement decision 2025/2424 outlines that surveillance zones in Sardinia will remain in place until 16 March 2026 and protection zones remained in place until February 2026, with ongoing vaccination. The movement of live, vaccinated cattle from Sardinia to mainland Italy resumed on 7 January 2026 ([PAFF](#)).

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 the affected countries. In response to the outbreaks, 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) from Italy, France and Spain. More information can be found on the gov.uk page: [Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues](#).

In addition to this, an EU wide ban is in place for personal imports to GB of fresh meat, meat products, milk, dairy products, colostrum, colostrum products and certain composite products and animal by-products of ruminant and porcine origin. This is in response to multiple disease outbreaks across the EU. These special measures were applied from 18 December 2025 until revoked or amended and replace earlier safeguard declarations. Live animals, germinal products and untreated wool, hair, skins and hides are not permitted for personal import under separate rules. Those

found with these items will need to either surrender them at the border or will have them seized and destroyed.

In our previous update ([Lumpy Skin Disease in Europe - GOV.UK](#)), given the reduced number of outbreaks being reported from France and the fact no outbreaks have been reported in the north of the country after tracing activities identified cattle potentially exposed to LSD being moved to Brittany, the risk of incursion of LSD to Great Britain was reduced from medium to **low (rare but can occur)**. Whilst the new outbreaks reported in Spain do represent some geographical spread, as they include the first to occur outside of Catalonia, they have nonetheless occurred close to the region of concentrated outbreaks along the French Spanish border (map 1), and the risk to Great Britain does not increase as a result. We are not receiving live cattle from the affected areas, and LSD has not been reported in the north of France where vector incursion to Great Britain may be possible. However, vector incursion is impossible to fully mitigate against, particularly as vector activity increases due to warmer weather, and keepers and veterinarians should familiarise themselves with LSD clinical signs and report suspicion appropriately.

Conclusion

Three new outbreaks of LSD have been reported in Spain. The two most recent outbreaks were farms that could not be vaccinated due to displaying respiratory signs, and are the first outbreaks in Spain to occur outside of Catalonia. No outbreaks have been reported in France since our last update, and Italy has not reported an outbreak since 5 November 2025.

Since the 1 June 2024 there has been no trade in live bovine animals from Italy, France or Spain nor bovine germplasm collected in these countries. Restrictions have been 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 is received about the outbreaks.

Considering the location of current outbreaks and the fact outbreaks have not been reported in the north of France, the current risk level of incursion of LSD remains **low (rare but can occur)**. We are currently mitigating against disease incursion by the restricted trade in cattle and bovine germplasm from these countries, as well as restrictions on personal imports.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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Presentation: PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare - 19-20 February - LSD
- France

Presentation: PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare - 19-20 February - LSD
- Italy

Presentation: PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare - 19-20 February - LSD
- Spain

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