

Updated Outbreak Assessment #10

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Europe

16 April 2026

Disease report

Since our last update on 3 March 2026, 3 outbreaks of LSD have been reported in Sardinia, Italy. These are the first reports to the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) from the island since 5 November 2025, and the first since the restriction zones on Sardinia were lifted on 20 February 2026. There have been no further reports in Spain or France 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 Great Britain is maintained at **low (rare but can occur)**.

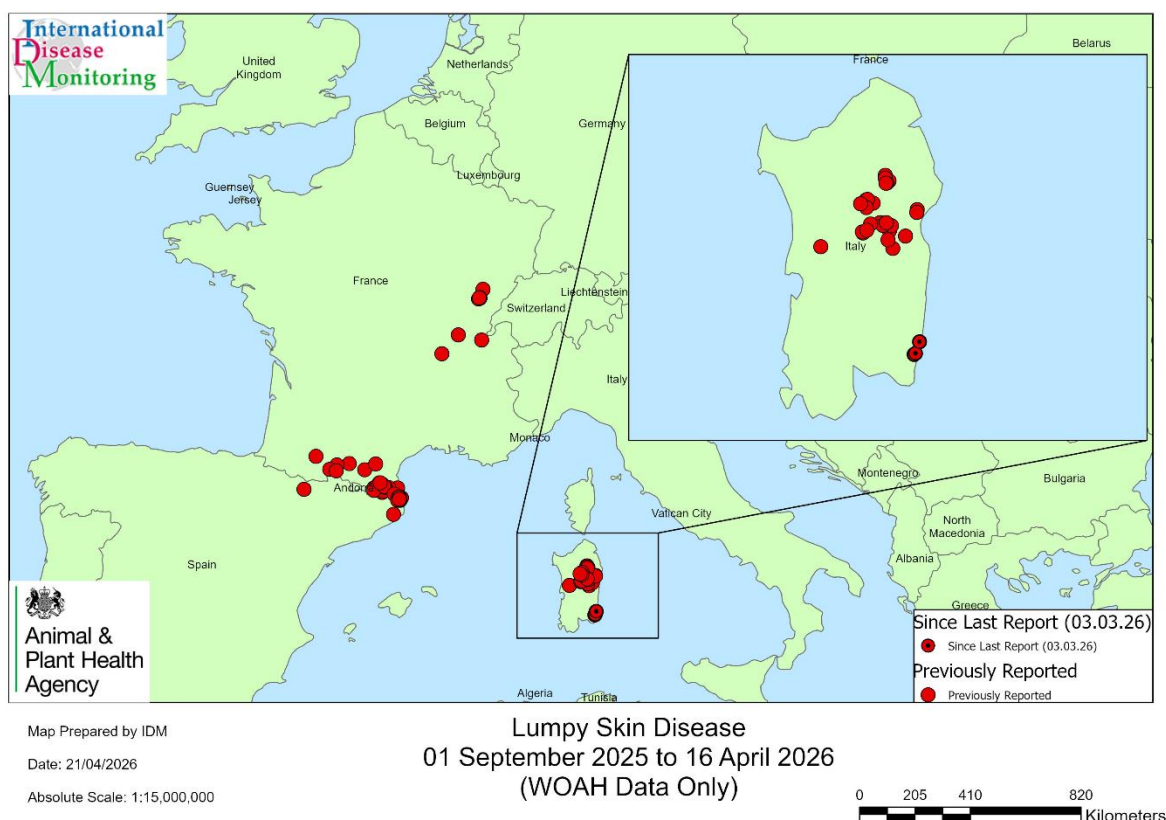


Figure 1: Map of lumpy skin disease outbreaks (red points) in Europe, with an inset of Sardinia, reported to the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) from 01 September 2025 to 16 April 2026. New outbreaks since our last update are indicated by a dotted centre.

Situation assessment

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) was reported in Europe in July 2025 for the first time since 2018. On 3 June 2025, an outbreak of LSD was reported to WOAAH on the island of Sardinia. A further 80 outbreaks were reported in Sardinia in 2025 and one in Lombardy, mainland Italy. On 30 June 2025, France reported their first outbreak. Between 30 June and 22 December 2025, France reported 115 outbreaks of LSD to WOAAH. Spain reported a total of 17 outbreaks of LSD in October 2025. Our previous outbreak assessments published in [January](#) and [March](#) cover the situation in 2026. LSD is a pox virus mainly affecting cattle and water buffalo, which is notifiable to the WOAAH (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%) (WOAH) 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 (WOAH, 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.

Italy

Italy have reported their first LSD outbreaks of 2026, on the island of Sardinia. These are the first outbreaks of LSD on the island since November 2025 ([WOAH](#)). A total of 3 outbreaks have been reported on BENV (National Veterinary Epidemiological Bulletin) in the southeast of the island. From the national veterinary epidemiological bulletin, seven calves, 4 months old, which were born to vaccinated animals have been affected. This suggests maternal antibodies had waned.

A live attenuated Neethling strain vaccine was used by Italy in 2025 and the vaccination campaign in Sardinia reached 97.75% of cattle premises on the island, with a total of 96.53% of eligible animals vaccinated ([Platforme](#)). The vaccination campaign in Sardinia was concluded on the 27 of November and the health authorities plan to replicate the vaccination strategy in 2026 including vaccinating animals in Sardinia and the Aosta Valley ([PAFF](#)).

In 2025, outbreak reports were limited to the northern half of the island. It is unknown whether this is a [new incursion or a resurgence](#) of disease. According to [WOAH guidelines](#), the Neethling strain vaccine is expected to provide protective immunity within three weeks of administration, with protection lasting for at least one year. In countries where LSD is present, annual vaccination is recommended. Passive immunity is thought to last less than four months (Samojlović and others., 2024), with vaccination recommended between three and six months of age.

[Recent PAFF Presentations](#) from late March 2026 indicate that as of 20 February 2026, restriction zones implemented in Sardinia in respect to LSD, were lifted. This represents an updated clarification to the date referenced in the [preceding PAFF presentation](#) released in February 2026 and a revision of the [expected date](#) of 27

February 2026. Vaccinated animals have been allowed free movement to mainland Italy since 7 January 2026, following the outbreaks being declared as resolved in late December 2025.

Spain

In our last update ([Lumpy Skin Disease in Europe – GOV.UK](#)), Spain reported 3 outbreaks of LSD. Since then, no further outbreaks have been reported.

According to the recent March [report to PAFF](#), the last outbreak in Girona was on 7 January 2026, and the restriction zone encompassing Girona was lifted in late February 2026 and was re-classified as a designated vaccination zone: VZ-II. These vaccination zones are administrative designations designed to control outbreaks. VZ-II is an area with confirmed outbreaks or cases, in which vaccination occurs. This is currently established in affected regions of Catalonia ([BeaconBio](#), [PAFF](#)).

Emergency Vaccination is mandatory and strict movement controls are in place. This applies to both live-animal and germinal products. VZ-I on the other hand, is an area where no cases or outbreaks are present. Vaccination is administered as a precaution to prevent spread. It was established as a protective buffer region outside the immediate zone of infection.

Despite this, VZ-I contained outbreaks in Aragon. However, this was due to an underlying respiratory illness this was due to non-completion of vaccination as a result of an underlying respiratory illness ([see our previous report](#)). The premises involved in these incidents are used for the production of beef. As of 27 February 2026, several control measures were implemented. In addition to those discussed in [our previous report](#), they include: movement tracing, biosecurity awareness campaigns, and new emergency purchase of additional vaccine doses by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) ([PAFF](#)).

France

Since our last update, no new outbreaks have been reported in France. The total number of LSD outbreaks reported from France therefore remains at 117. [PAFF reports](#) from March established that vaccination efforts in previously affected vaccination zones will continue until at least 31 July 2026, with many of the regions voting in favour of extending the vaccination campaign till December 2026.

Belgium

To date, Belgium have not reported any outbreaks of LSD. From the [Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium](#), Belgium have received 200,000 vaccines against LSD in preparedness for the warmer weather. After validation of the vaccine, in the event of an outbreak within the country or close to the border, it is expected that these vaccines would be deployed for use.

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 in 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) 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.

Given that these are the first outbreaks of LSD in Sardinia since November 2025, and there have not been any further reports elsewhere in Europe, the risk of incursion of LSD to Great Britain is maintained at **low (rare but can occur)**. Whilst the newly reported outbreaks in Sardinia are concerning, especially given the high vaccination coverage in 2025 and the potential of a new incursion, the location of the current outbreaks are too far away for flies to reach UK borders from natural dispersal, 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 southern Sardinia, Italy and it is unknown if this is a new incursion of disease or not. It is also unclear what the ages the affected calves are. No outbreaks have been reported in France or Spain since our last update.

Since 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 - 24-25 March – LSD
France

Presentation: PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare - 24-25 March - LSD -
Italy

Presentation: PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare - 24-25 March - LSD -
Spain

Presentation: PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare – 24-25 March - LSD –
European Commission

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