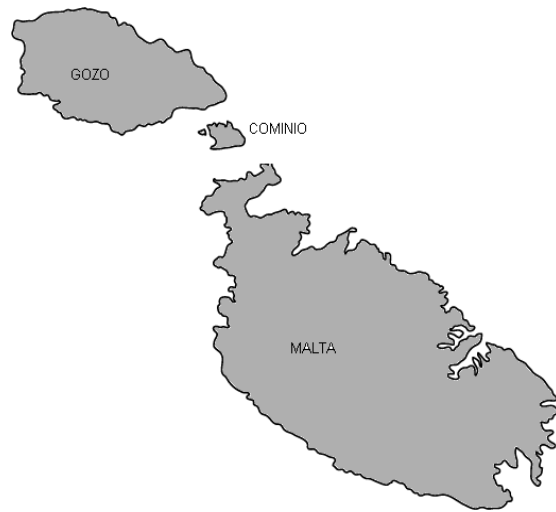


# Malta's 2010 Enzootic Bovine Leukosis Programme

Malta and Gozo are considered as one region.



# Data on herds

Region	Total number of herds	Total number of herds under the programme	Number of herds checked	Number of positive herds	Number of new positive herds	Number of herds depopulated	% positive herds depopulated	Indicators		
								% Herd Coverage	% positive herds Period herd prevalence	% new positive herds Herd incidence
Malta and Gozo	*332	127	127	60	0	3	5%	100%	47.24 %	0%

\*including holdings with beef cattle for slaughter purposes only

# Data on animals

Region	Total number of animals	Number of animals to be tested under the programme	Number of animals tested	Number of animals tested individually	Number of positive animals	Slaughtering		Indicators	
						Number of animals with a positive result	Total number of animals slaughtered	% coverage at animal level	% positive animals animal prevalence
Malta and Gozo	15,005	* 9,458	13,189	13,189	1,292	1,195	1,435	139.45%	9.8%

\* This includes animals over one year as on the 31st December 2010.

# Information on diagnostic tests used

<b>Disease/Species</b>	<b>Test</b>	<b>Type of sample</b>	<b>Type of test</b>	<b>Number of tests performed</b>
<b>EBL / Bovine</b>	<b>ELISA</b>	<b>Blood serum</b>	<b>Routine Test</b>	<b>21, 539</b>

A collaboration relationship has been established with the NRL of Italy, the Istituto Zooprofilattico di Perugia.

The NRL, carries out Agar gel Immunodiffusion test in the following cases :

- dubious ELISA positive reactors
- on animals that first give rise to a positive reaction, than on a repeated test give rise to a negative reaction
- on positive reactors that arise the first time on previously negative farms.

# Conclusions

- Malta is a small island and market for meat and meat products. The demand remains limited and the possibility of placing on the market beef originating from the EBL eradication programme remains problematic. In spite of this, all positive animals that carried over from 2010 were slaughtered at the beginning of 2011.
- A further technical difficulty arises from the small size of the holdings and the short distances between holdings. These limitations may be responsible for the resulting of new positives within herds in view of possible horizontal transmission but no new positive herds were registered.
- The positive animal prevalence went down from 17% to 9.8%.
- Testing was extended to all animals over one year since mid-year , irrespective of the status of the farm, to increase sensitivity of testing and possibly increase the early alerting of positive animals.

# Conclusions

- There is a large number of extremely small farms of meat-producing herds having a few male bovine animals for meat production. The total number of meat-producing farms is 205.
- The total number of animals over 24 months on these farms is 279.
- For 2010, these holdings were not under the EBL programme since they only account for 3.4% of all bovine animals over 24 months in Malta/Gozo.
- The effort of sampling and testing was focused on the milk-producing herd.
- Therefore even if not under the EBL programme, half of the male bovine animals on these meat-producing farms were tested. The data however does not appear in the tables.