



Newcastle disease (ND) outbreak in Sweden 2003 & 2004

Lena Björnerot

Deputy CVO

Swedish Board of Agriculture (SBA)

Background

Sweden has for many years applied a strict, non-vaccination and stamping out policy as regards ND

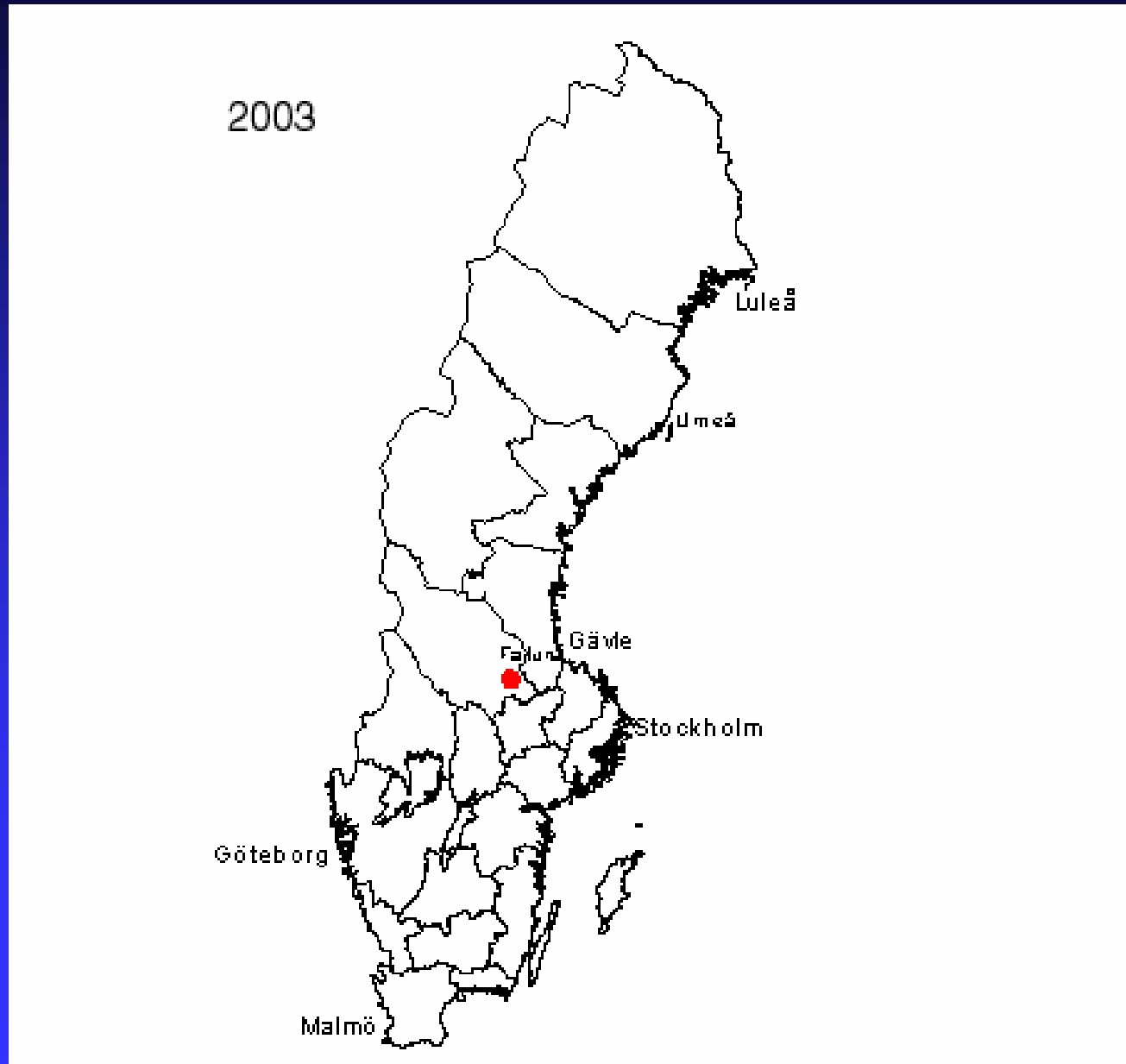
Sweden has only experienced a few cases of this disease during the past years

Background

During a nationwide surveillance program all breeding flocks are being sampled for infectious diseases including ND

The SBA must immediately be notified of any suspicion of ND

Outbreak of ND in Dalarna 2003



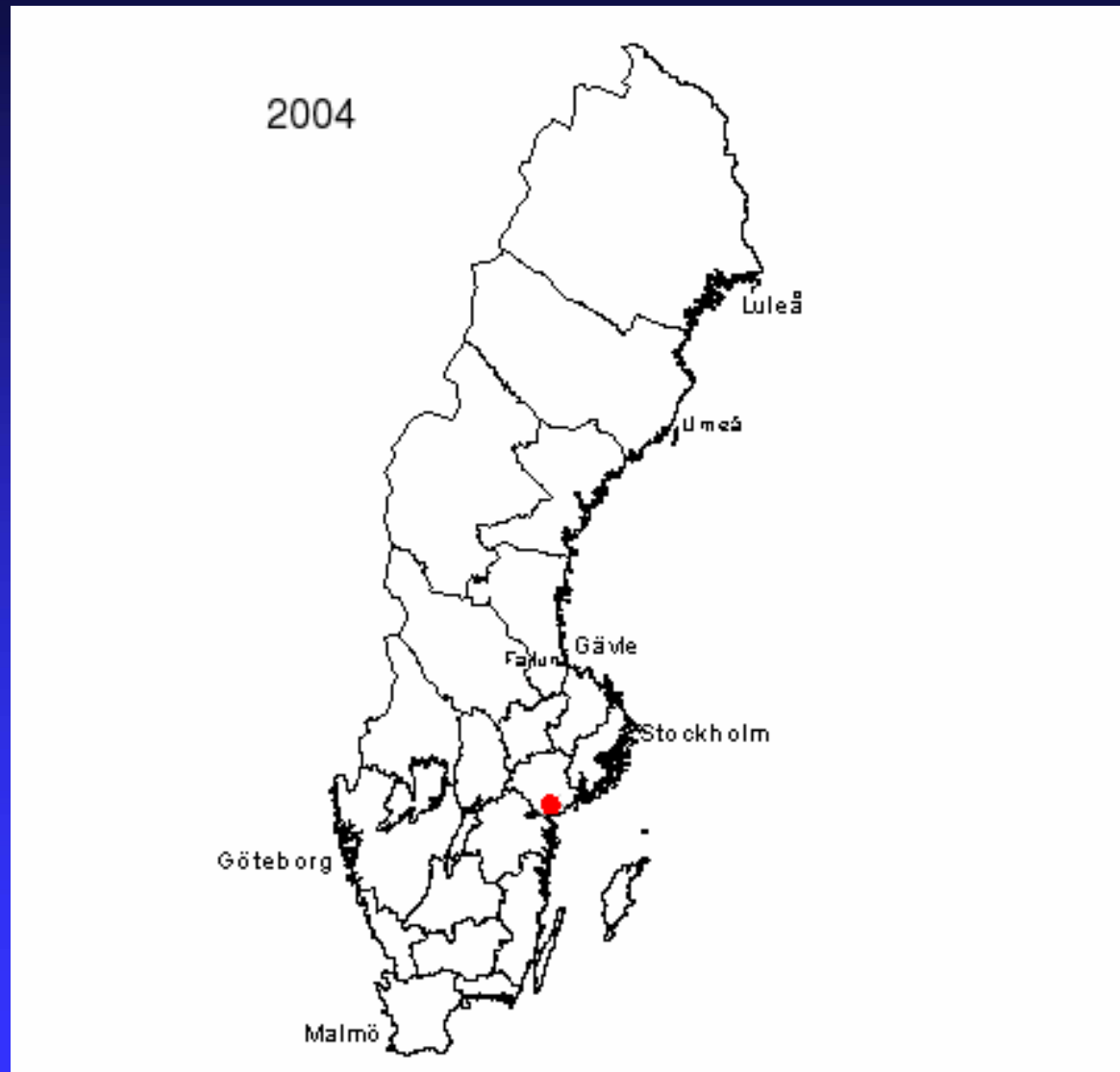


Outbreak of ND in Dalarna 2003

- In autumn 2003, Paramyxovirus-1 pigeon variant was detected in a hobby flock
- Certain EC legislation as applicable on confirmation was already applied on suspicion
- Member States & the European Commission were informed on suspicion; OIE was informed on confirmation

- No further measures such as regionalisation at EC level were judged to be necessary
- Certain third countries blocked imports from the whole of Sweden as regards live poultry/birds, hatching eggs, meat & other products thereof
- After direct information to the third countries concerned, regionalisation was accepted and applied approximately 1 month after notification
- All restrictions were lifted 14 November 2003

Outbreak of ND in Östergötland, 2004





Outbreak of ND in Östergötland 2004

- Poultry at 2 laying hen farms (42 900/30 500 hens) situated 500 m apart showed decreased feed intake and drop in egg production in mid & late June respectively
- Already on official suspicion - antibody titers for PMV-1 were detected 19 & 29 June respectively - the farms were put under restrictions
- The poultry were euthanised & rendered on 21 June and 1 July respectively

- Preliminary cleaning & disinfection procedures on these farms were completed 21 June & 4 July
- Epidemiological & inventory investigations were carried out
- The source of infection for the primary case could not be determined but it was suspected to be wild birds
- It was suspected that personal contact was the mode of transmission to the secondary infected farm



- Only 2 additional commercial holdings were situated within the protection (3 km) & surveillance (10 km) zone
- Both commercial holdings were clinically inspected, sampled and analysed at the National Veterinary Institute with negative results
- All 10 hobby flocks situated in the 10 km zone were contacted and informed

- Already on suspicion, all relevant parties involved with poultry in Sweden & all authorities concerned, as well as the Nordic countries and the European Commission were informed and continuously updated
- On 20 July, European CRL in Weybridge confirmed the same ND virus (ICPI 1.45 in the primary flock) in both affected farms
- On confirmation, the Member States, the European Commission & the OIE as well as concerned third countries were immediately and continuously informed

- Following the confirmation of ND, all additional measures required by EC legislation were immediately applied
- Measures included transport restrictions for live poultry, hatching eggs, fresh poultry meat, eggs for consumption and litter/ manure from poultry within the 10 km zone
- Based on the epidemiological investigations conducted, there was never any reason to believe that the virus spread any further from the two affected holdings

- In accordance with Directive 92/66/EEC, the protection & surveillance zones were lifted 4 August - Sweden was again considered free of ND
- The final cleaning & disinfection of the two infected farms were completed 17 September and 26 October respectively - from those dates, the restrictions on the two farms were lifted and the farms were restocked
- In accordance with the guidelines of OIE, Sweden was to be regarded as free 6 months after the slaughter of the last infected animal - e.g. 1 January 2005

In conclusion



- In both outbreaks, Sweden already on suspicion took all necessary measures - including stamping out - as laid down in the EC legislation in order to promptly stop any further spread of the disease
- Member States, the European Commission & OIE were informed – no further measures such as regionalisation were needed at EC level as all necessary measures were taken according to EC legislation

In conclusion



- In 2004, after direct information to the third countries concerned, regionalisation was accepted and applied within a few days
- The aim for the future would be that also third countries accept the measures applied in accordance with the EC legislation as sufficient
 - i.e. import restrictions on a whole region should not be applied unless the Member State affected judge such restrictions necessary