

Bluetongue – update on the situation in the Federal Republic of Germany



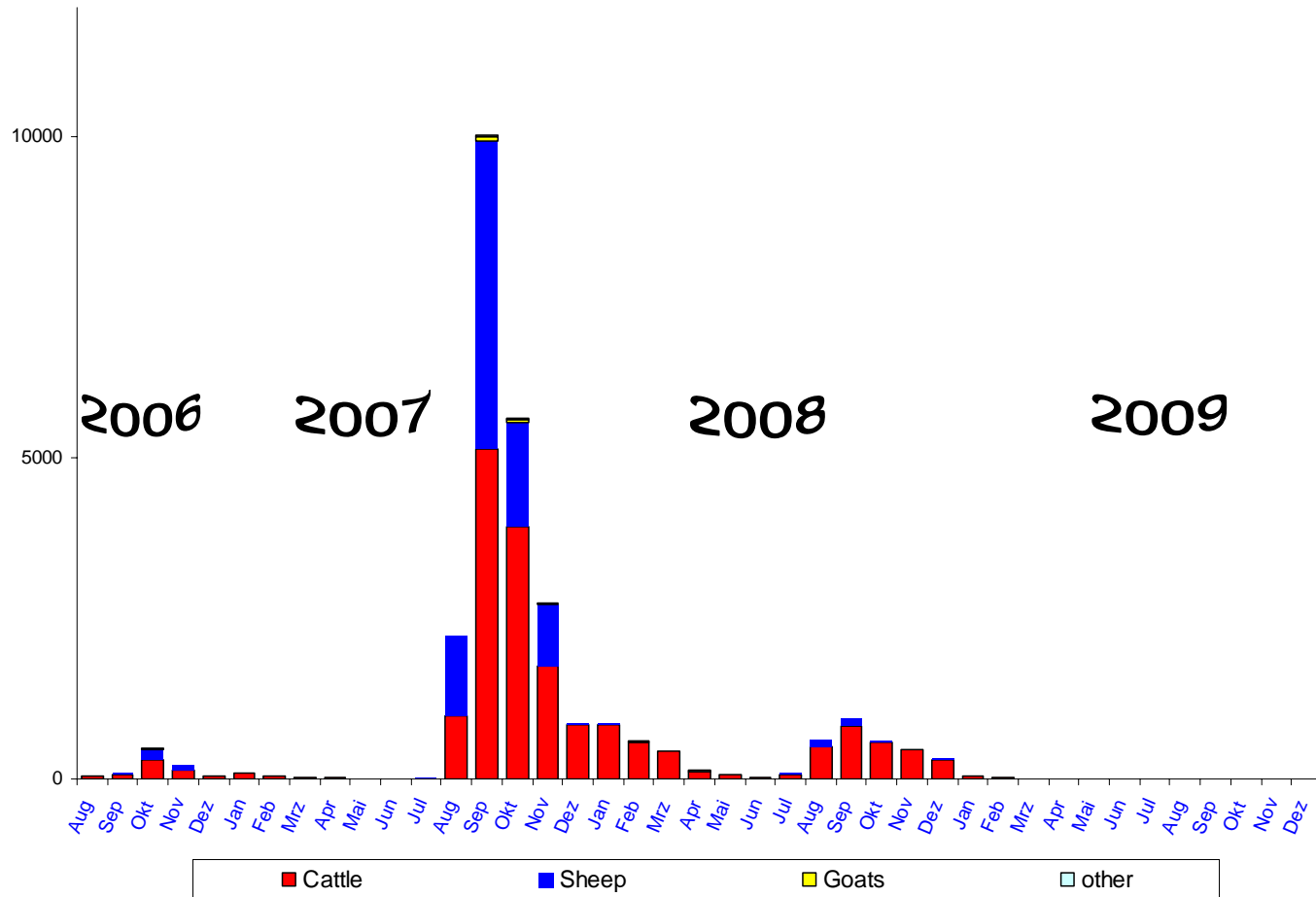
SCOFCAH Brussels 3 - 4 March 2009

BT-cases in Germany

(as of 2-3-09)

month	2007	2008	<i>hereof „new“cases“ in 2008</i>	2009
January	81	872	0	22
February	52	586	0	29
March	20	437	1	
April	32	127	0	
May	0	73	25	
June	2	34	34	
July	18	87	87	
August	2.242	611	611	
September	10.014	932	932	
October	5.614	590	590	
November	1.873	462	462	
December	864	301	301	
Total	20.812	5.112	3.043	51

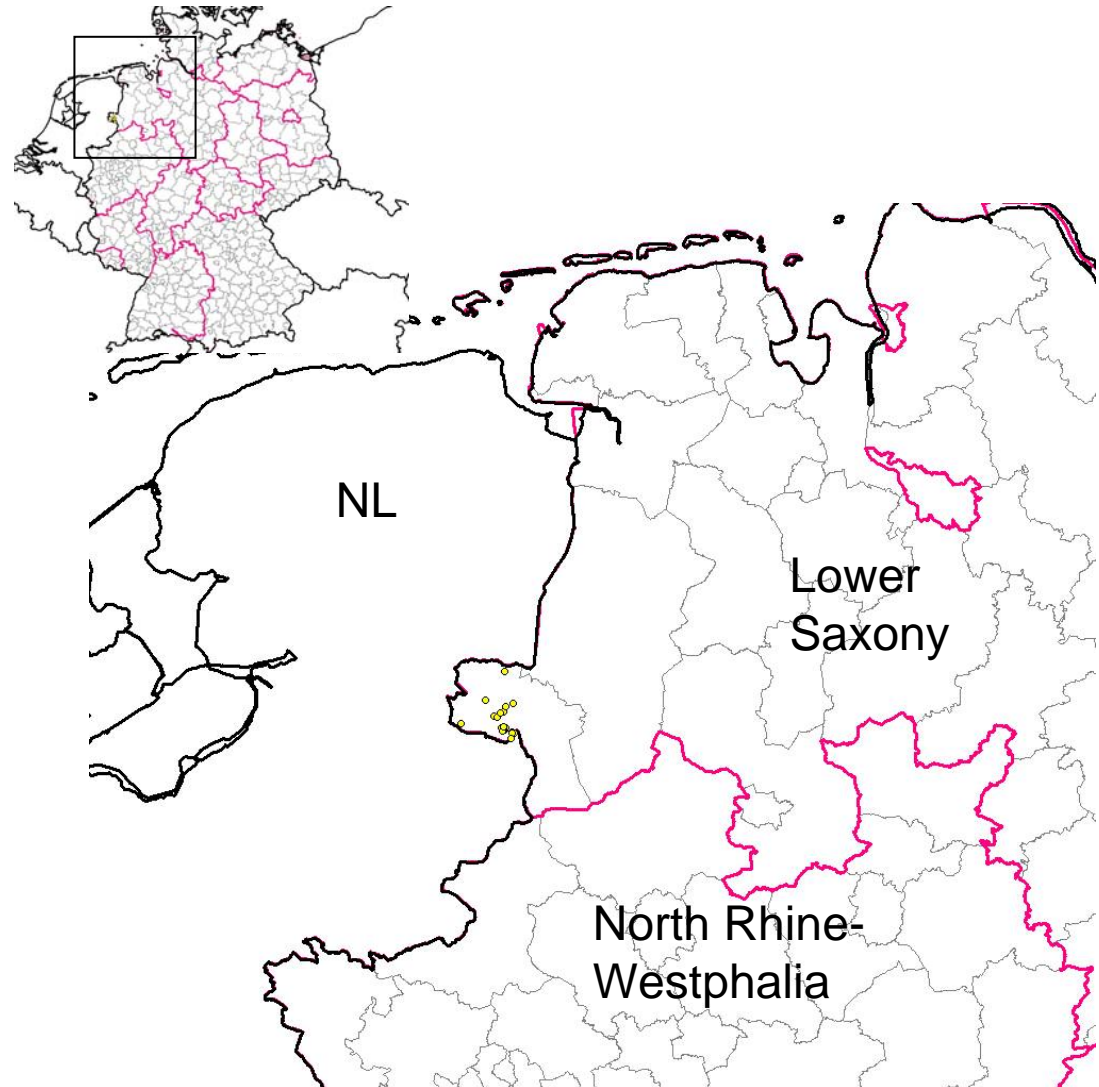
development of BTV-infections



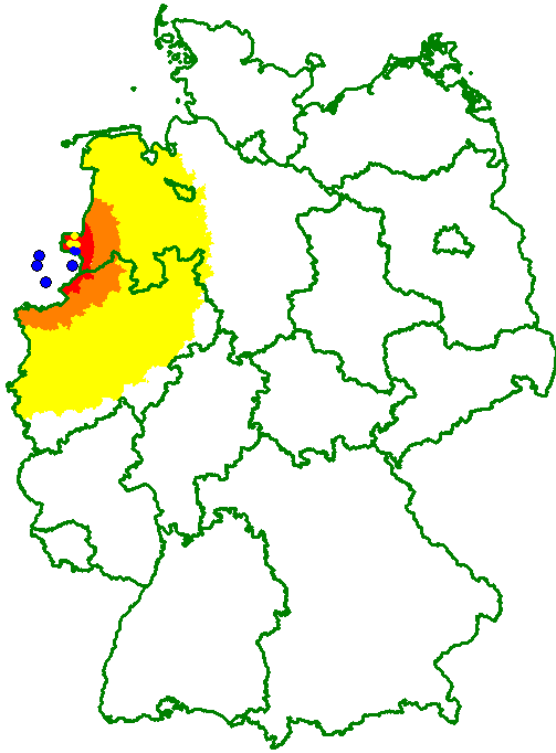
BTV-6 findings in Lower Saxony

month	2008
January	0
February	0
March	0
April	0
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	37
December	8
Total	45*

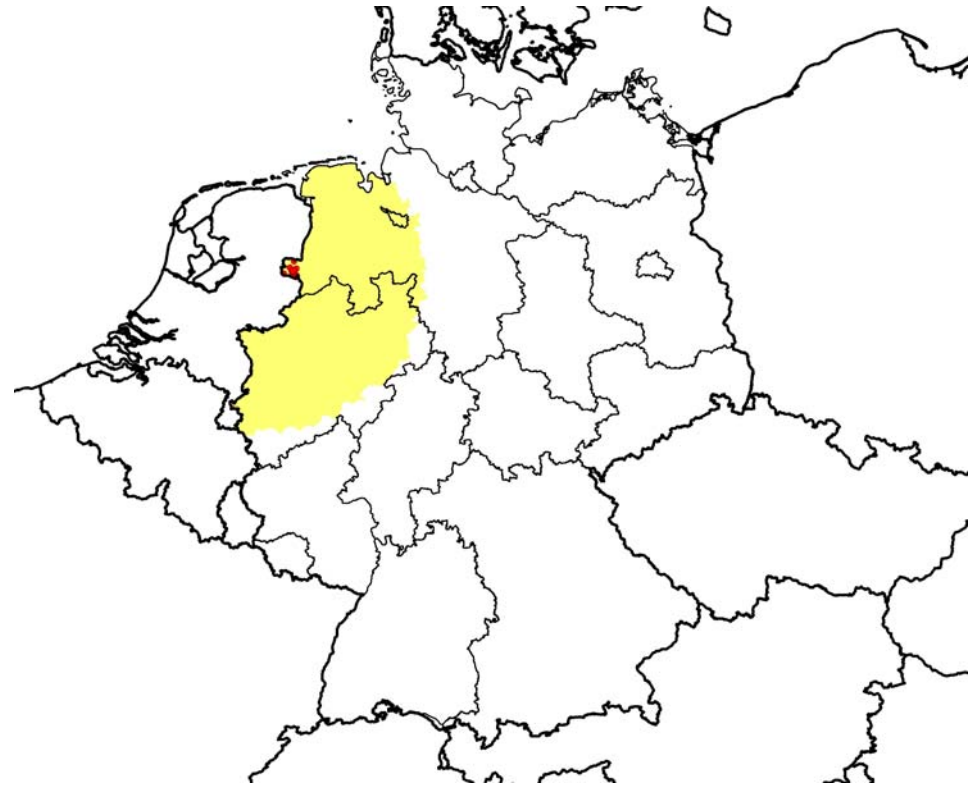
* 23 holdings affected



BTV-6 zones in Germany



20 km-zone and 50 km-zone established nov. 2008, lifted on 15.1.2009



150 km-zone established nov. 2008, to be lifted as from this week, however BTV-8-restrictions are valid for all Germany due to BTV-8

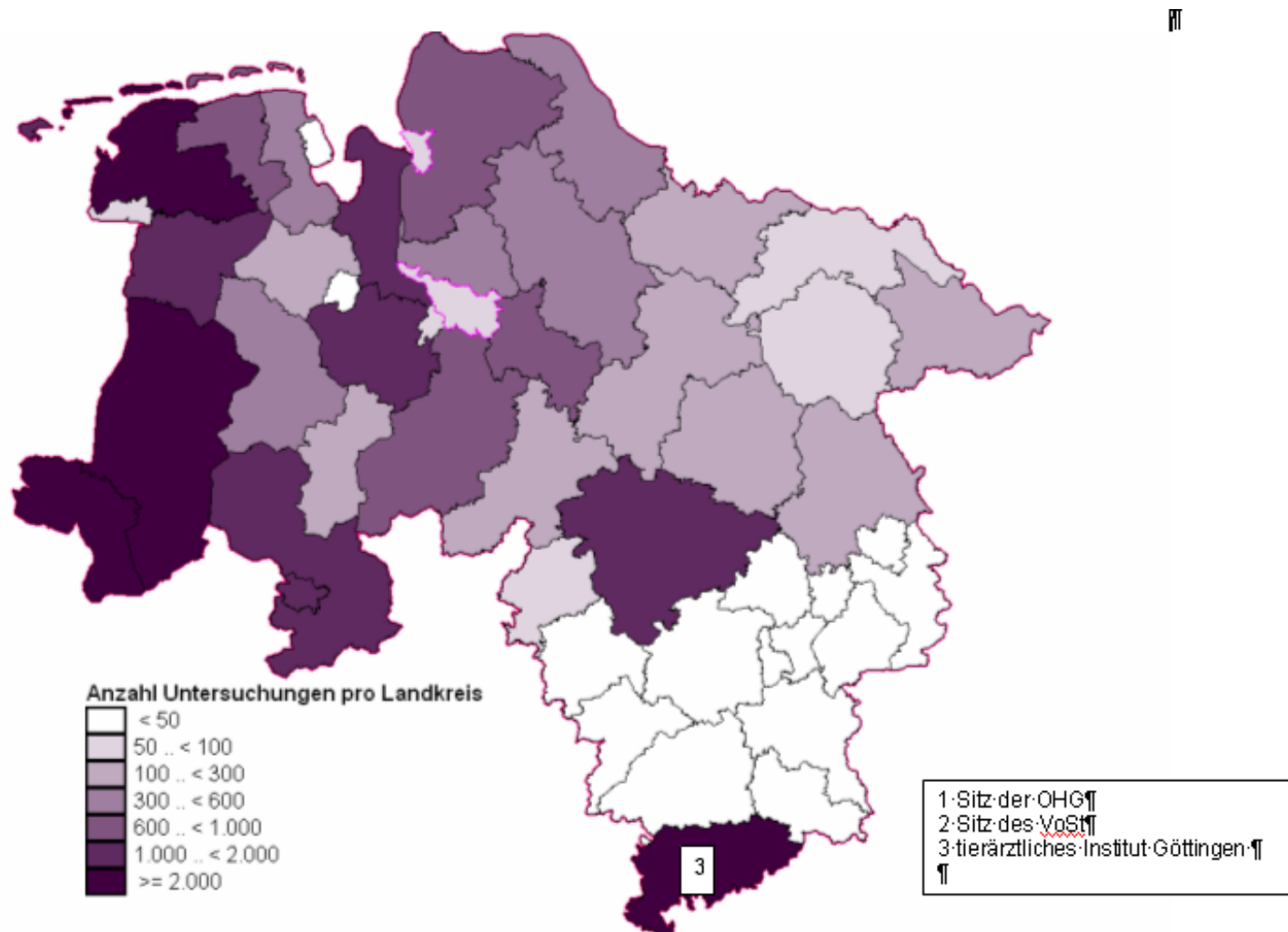
sampling of cattle for BTV in Lower Saxony

region	pan PCR	pan PCR positive	BTV-8 positive	BTV-6 positive
Lower Saxony*	28.658	3.753	3.711	45
LK Emsland and Grafschaft Bentheim	5.656	193	148	45
BTV-6-zone **	18.357	2.745	2.700	45

* 9 samples with very low virus load – no diff. possible

** Landkreise in or affected by BTV-6-zone

distribution of BTV-6-investigations in Lower Saxony



experimental infection of cattle in NRL

- inoculation of cell culture and embryonated eggs from blood samples of BTV-6-positive cattle: no success in virus isolation
- inoculation of three cattle with 40 ml BTV-6-positive EDTA-blood (20 ml i.v. and 20 ml s.c.)
- two of these animals had antibodies against BTV-8 in different titers
- animal with high BTV-8-titer: no infection with BTV-6 observed
- animal with low BTV-8-titer: detection of BTV-6-genome after 9 days p.i. (Ct more than 30 – low genom load), day 31 p.i. animal was BTV-6-genome negative
- animal without antibodies against BTV-8: day 7 p.i. BTV-6-positive, remained positive for a long term (after day 98 p.i. Ct still at 31)
- no clinical symptoms
- virus isolation on cell culture and embr. egg successful from day 7 to 38 p.i.

BTV monitoring in Germany

- number of animals tested in 2007: ca. 277.000
- number of animals tested in 2008: ca. 346.000, hereof ca. 66.000 in Lower Saxony
- number of investigations of animals intended for trade in 2008: 115.000, hereof ca. 40.000 in Lower Saxony
- estimated number of animals tested for trade from the restricted zone in Lower Saxony for 2009 ca. 56.000 per year
- serological survey according to Reg. (EC) No. 1266/2007

conclusions

- BTV-6 findings were restricted timely (only november and december 2008) and geographically (findings only in the Kreis Grafschaft Bentheim)
- no clinical symptoms in animals where BTV-6 was detected, nor in field infections neither in experimental inoculated animals
- experimental infection with BTV-6 can lead to long PCR positive period (98 days so far), results are very similar to further research concerning behaviour of BTV-8
- investigations of animals intended for trade in the BTV-8-restricted zone (that remains in place) give information about presence of BTV-6 and provides security for free zones to receive only negative animals
- restrictions due to BTV-6 are no longer required, restrictions will be lifted this week

Thank you for your attention!