An update on Bovine Brucellosis in Belgium

SCOFCAH Brussels, 4-5 June 2012
Outline

• Outbreaks
• Epidemiological investigation
• Contact farms
• Surveillance
• Conclusions
Primary outbreak of *Brucella abortus*

- Mixed herd (breeding + fattening) in the village Franc-Waret, municipality Fernelmont, Province of Namur
- 262 bovines: beef cows, calves, fattening bulls
- Confirmation 7 March 2012
- Biovar 3
- Slaughtering, cleaning and disinfection have been completed
Secondary outbreaks of *Brucella abortus*

- 21/03/2012: confirmation of a second outbreak: positive bacteriology on a compulsory slaughtered cow, originally from the first outbreak (12 January 2012), in a mixed herd in the village Neuringen, Province of Oost-Vlaanderen. All other bovines in this herd were negative.
Secondary outbreaks of *Brucella abortus*

- 02/04/2012: confirmation of 2 new outbreaks in the province of Namur: positive bacteriology on 2 compulsory slaughtered seropositive cows from two contact farms (contact via persons with the first outbreak)
- Beef cattle (suckler cows)
Secondary outbreaks of *Brucella abortus*

- 18/05/2012: confirmation of a new outbreak in the province of Namur: positive bacteriology on a compulsory slaughtered seropositive cow from a contact farm (second sampling round)
- Contact via persons with the first outbreak
- Beef cattle (suckler cows)
Secondary outbreaks of *Brucella abortus*

- 1 secondary outbreak in France due to introduction of a cow purchased from the primary outbreak farm (see presentation of France in the previous SCOFCAH meeting)
Case of *Brucella suis* in a cow

- Testing of all dairy herds (8 600) by bulk milk ELISA in April
- 23 farms with a positive result
- Blood sampling on these farms: 12 farms completely negative, 11 farms with 1 or very few seropositive cows
- All seropositive cows were slaughtered for sampling and bacteriological investigation
- All bacteriological tests were negative except 1 isolation of *Brucella suis* biovar 2
Case of *Brucella suis* in a cow

- *Brucella suis* biovar 2 is endemic in Belgian and European wild boar
- Never confirmed in cattle in Belgium before
- All cattle in the farm concerned are compulsory slaughtered
- 64 contact farms were identified and are being sampled and tested. Up until now all results are negative
Epidemiological investigation

• Tracing on, tracing back
• Direct contacts (purchase, sale, show)
• Indirect contacts (veterinarians, used equipment, neighbouring farms, grazing)
• Investigation still ongoing
Epidemiological investigation

Contact farms:
- Outbreak 1: 291
- Outbreak 2: 148
- Outbreak 3: 18
- Outbreak 4: 17
- Outbreak 5: no additional contact farms
Contact farms

- Movement restrictions
- Testing of all bovines over 12 months (SAW and ELISA): twice with an interval of 6 to 8 weeks. Second round of testing is almost completed.
- Positive sera are sent to NRL for confirmation.
- Bovines with seropositive results confirmed by NRL are compulsory slaughtered for bacteriology.
- High risk herds will be retested before the end of the winter season.
- Up until now *Brucella abortus* confirmed in 4 contact farms.
Surveillance

General surveillance

• Temporary testing of all dairy herds (8,600) by bulk milk ELISA: every 2 months
• Temporary testing of blood of all purchased bovines over 18 months of age. Will be compulsory until the end of 2012
• Stimulation of notification of abortions
Conclusions

• Outbreak identified in an early stage of disease due to the risk based surveillance programme
• Contact farms identified, movement restrictions, sampling
• Four secondary outbreaks confirmed up until now
• Origin of infection not clear yet
• Epidemiological investigation and surveillance are ongoing
• Exceptional case of *Brucella suis* in a cow
Website

www.favv.be
www.afsca.be

Thank you for your attention