Case of brucellosis in bovine, Brucella melitensis
Haute-Savoie, France
- Recapitulation and perspective -

SCOFCAH Brussels 4-5 June 2012
Late abortion of 1 bovine in a small dairy herd in January 2012

→ Serological and bacteriological investigations

→ Milk positive culture confirmed by NRL on 6/4/12: B. *melitensis* bv3
Control measures

- Herd with 21 dairy cows
  - All animal were culled

- Production of raw milk cheese ‘reblochon’
  - Public health warnings

- Suspension and control of all related farms
**Results**

**Epidemiological links:**
- First investigations and larger investigations in neighbourhood (old direct or indirect contacts, water streams, hay, ...)
  - All serological results negative

- End of second controls in few weeks for 3 neighbours and some contact herds (inward or outward animal movements) – 60 days between 2 serological controls

- Offspring from infected case (4 animals): all tested (negative) and culled

**Results in infected farm**
- All animals are seronegative except the index case (despite abortion)
- Testing after culling: another infected cow (seronegative)
Further investigations

- **Typing by NRL**:  
  - Comparison with all former strains from the region  
  - First results: great similarities with the strain of the last case in the area in 1999

- **Hypothesis**:  
  1. Same origin of contamination for the two infected cows  
     ⇒ Slow and silent spread in the region  
  2. Latent carriage with link with the last case
• Apparently limited diffusion capacity
• Origin: latent carriage since last outbreak?
• Very unusual case:
  • *B. Melitensis* in cows
  • All seronegative (except one) despite promiscuity between animals in the same herd
  • Seronegativity despite positive bacteriology (one case)
Further investigations:

- Typing continued
- Control on cows and small ruminants after summer pasture

⇒ Increased level of vigilance at national level for all stakeholders
Thank you for your attention