Enzootic bovine leucosis situation in Estonia

Estonian Veterinary and Food Board
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Historical data

- Disease started to spread in 1950s
- First control programmes at end of 1980s
- Serological testing of enzootic bovine leucosis has been carried out since 1992
  - Number of positive animals was 33,349
- In the beginning of 2005 the leucosis surveillance principles aligned with respective requirements of EU legislation.
Surveillance

- Enzootic bovine leucosis is part of Infectious Animal Disease Control Programme
- Milking cows are tested from bulk milk samples, other bovines from blood samples
- Official post-mortem examination is carried out on the basis of Regulation 854/2004
- All samples are tested with ELISA in National Reference Laboratory according to Directive 64/432/ECC)
Testing scheme until 2012

• All bovines over the age of 24 months are tested with interval not exceeding 12 months
• All bulls in artificial insemination centre are tested serologically
Testing scheme since 2012

• All bovines over the age of 24 months must be tested 2 times within 12 months and time span between two tests must be at least 4 months
• Samples taken in 2012 and 2013 were integrated into that 12-months testing scheme which was calculated specifically for each herd
• All bulls in artificial insemination centre are tested serologically
Number of herds tested in 2004-2013
Test results 2004-2013

[Bar chart showing test results for each year from 2004 to 2013. The chart includes bars for the number of positive herds, the number of positive animals, and the percentage of officially free herds.]
Measures applied in case of confirmation of outbreak

- Regulation of Minister of Agriculture No 17 of 28 of February 2007 „Regulation of Eradication of enzootic bovine leucosis“
- In case of confirmation:
  - Free status is suspended
  - Bovine with suspicion is slaughtered without hesitation
  - Epidemiological investigation
  - 3 months after the positive bovine has been removed, all bovines over 12 months are tested 2 times with interval of 4-12 months
Considering the facts that:

• enzootic bovine leukosis is notifiable disease;
• all bovines over 24 months of age have been tested two times within 12 months with interval at least 4 months;
• at least 99,8 % of the herds have achieved officially bovine leukosis free status;
• each bovine animal has been identified in accordance with EU legislation.
Conclusions

• Estonia fulfills EU requirements (Directive 64/432 ECC) for country to be recognised as officially enzootic-bovine-leucosis-free Member State
Thank you for your attention!