



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Unit 04 - Veterinary Control Programmes

SANCO/3776/2008

*Programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain
animal diseases and zoonoses*

Surveillance and Eradication programme of Bluetongue

Approved* for 2009 by Commission Decision 2008/897/EC

Lithuania

* in accordance with Commission Decision 90/424/EEC



1. **Identification of the programme**

Member State: Lithuania

Disease Bluetongue

Year of implementation: from 1st of January 2009 to 31st December of 2009

Reference of this document: _____

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2. **Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease(s):**

Bluetongue never been recorded in Lithuanian Republic

3. **Description of the submitted programme:**

The bluetongue vaccination control and surveillance programme is implemented by the Lithuanian State Food and Veterinary Service.

4. Measures of the submitted programme

4.1. *Summary of measures under the programme*

Duration of the programme: 2009

First year: 2009

Last year:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Eradication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Testing | <input type="checkbox"/> Testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slaughter of animals tested positive | <input type="checkbox"/> Slaughter of animals tested positive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Killing of animals tested positive | <input type="checkbox"/> Killing of animals tested positive |
| x Vaccination | <input type="checkbox"/> Extended slaughter or killing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal of products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal of products | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eradication, control or monitoring. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other measures (<i>specify</i>): |

The authority responsible for the co-ordination of control and surveillance of bluetongue in the entire country, is the State Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of the Lithuania

The Animal Health Department is responsible for the co-ordination and control of country and district State Food and Veterinary Services involved in the implementation of this program. This department collects the data, performs statistical analysis and evaluation of the surveillance program and informs the relevant authorities in European Union about the progress of the control and surveillance program.

Description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented:

Bluetongue vaccination program will be implemented in whole country. Vaccination will be launched when there is an outbreak in Lithuania or in close proximity to it.

Description of the measures of the programme:

Notification of the disease:

According The Law on Veterinary Activities No I-2110 (of 17 December 1991), with amendments by the Law No VIII-1350 (of 7 October 1999) and by the Law No VIII-1793 (of 4 July 2000) and Order of the Director of State Food and Veterinary Service On Regulation on the notification of animal diseases in the Republic of Lithuania, the animal keeper or private veterinarian or anybody who suspects infectious animal disease without delay to the official veterinary service shall report every suspected case to SFVS. On receiving a report of the presence or suspected presence of animal disease, on a livestock holding or in any other place, the official veterinarian in whose area the holding is located must immediately ensure that an investigation is set in motion to confirm or rule out the presence of the disease and to place the suspect holding under surveillance.

Target animals and animal population:

The vaccination of bovine, sheep and goats are foreseen.

Identification of animals and registration of holdings:

The identification of animals is done according Commission Regulation (EC) No 2629/97 of 29 December 1997 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 as regards ear tags, holding registers and passports in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals

The Order of the Ministry of Agriculture was adopted (18 December 2002 No. 496) and the SFVS was nominated as the competent institution responsible for the implementation of animal identification and registration system in the Republic of Lithuania.

Rules on the movement of animals:

Vaccines used and vaccination schemes:

The vaccines creating immunity against BTV8 virus will be used.

Vaccination strategy

The SFVS in consultation with epidemiologists from the Expert Group will prepare the plan with information about:

- the disease situation which has given rise to such a proposal;
- the factors that strengthen the case for vaccination to be authorized;

- the size of the area in which it is proposed to carry out vaccination, which will be decided after consultation between the SFVS epidemiologists from the Expert Group and Local SFVS with detailed local knowledge of the area at risk from further spread of the disease;

- the number and categories of animals that would be vaccinated;
- the vaccine that would be used;
- the duration of the vaccination campaign;
- the system to be used to identify and register vaccinated animals;
- the measures that would be taken to control the movement of animals and animal products.

Operation of the Vaccination Campaign

A vaccination team will consist of a veterinarian and a lay technical assistant. Each team will be supplied daily with the following materials and equipment:

- adequate vaccine to complete the days work;
- 2 automatic multidose syringes with spare parts, belt and holster;
- a small steriliser for the multidose syringes;
- disposable syringes and needles;
- containers for used disposable syringes and needles, empty vaccine
- bottles and other waste;

animal catching equipments;

- a supply of all the necessary forms.

Administrative staff will make appointments for the vaccination teams and, in doing so, will ask for adequate help to be available during vaccination to restrain animals and to provide other necessary assistance and will obtain details of the current animals population on the holding. Only exceptionally will vaccination visits be made without prior arrangement.

Each vaccination team will be given a duty sheet at the start of each working day, listing the holdings to be visited, the times of the visits and the approximated numbers of animals on each holding.

On arrival at a holding on which animals are to be vaccinated the veterinarian will explain the Vaccination Campaign to the owner or person in charge.

The members of the vaccination team will put on their protective clothing and carry out thorough personal disinfection before going near the part of the holding in which animals are housed.

In carrying out the vaccinations the manufacturers instruction will be strictly adhered to, with particular regard to the dosage rate, the optimal injection sites and the exclusion of animals under a certain age.

Each animal vaccinated, regardless of age, will be identified by a unique, ear tag. A record will be kept on pro forma of the number of animals vaccinated in each category of the serial numbers used.

Before leaving the holding, a holding vaccination record form will be completed in duplicate, the signature of the owner or person in charge obtained and a copy left on the holding.

At the end of the day's duties the vaccination team will return to the Vaccination Section where used disposable equipment and other waste will be put safely in a container for that purpose, other equipment which may have been contaminated will be sterilized after cleaning and disinfection, and the relevant forms will be completed and returned to the administrative staff. The Emergency Vaccination Campaign map will be updated daily to indicate progress.

The veterinarian in charge of the Section or his administrative counterpart will report daily to the local SFVS on progress with the campaign in the preceding 24 hours.

Measures in case of a positive result:

In case of positive results the measures foreseen in Council Directive 2000/75 is applied

Compensation scheme for owners of slaughtered and killed animals:

Compensation procedure is foreseen in the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No.1220 of 16 October 2001 on the compensation of losses and expenses incurred by the contagious diseases of animals, eradication of their focuses (Official Gazette, No, 89-3129, 2001), Order of the Minister of Agriculture No. 3D-100 "Approval of Rules of Support in Case of Emergency" (Official Gazette 2003, No. 29-1205), A List of diseases to be compensated approved by Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service by the Order No B1-60 of 09 01 2003 (Official Gazette 2003, No. 9-332) and The Procedure on Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture on the cases of contagious animal diseases, the acquired anti-epizootic means and the actions performed approved by Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service by the Order No 465 of 01 10 2001.

Development of a list of contagious animal diseases upon the occurrence of which livestock and other animals must be subjected to emergency slaughter or destruction, products and raw materials of animal origin must be decontaminated or destroyed and the losses incurred to the owners must be compensated and the expenses of the eradication of the disease focus must be covered is foreseen. At present not all costs are covered if animals are not insured on private initiative.

Before slaughtering a committee will evaluate a live animal's and propose the amount of compensation. The committee is constituted of a Veterinarian of District State Food and Veterinary Service, an Officer of the District Agriculture Service and a representative of farmers.

After evaluation of losses the report of the committee must be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture prepares the report to the Lithuanian Government. The Lithuanian Government, taking into account report of the Ministry of the Agriculture, will issue Resolution On losses compensation to the farmer, and the compensation is paid from the Government reserve fund for emergencies.

The Ministry of Agriculture defines the amount of compensation that cannot be greater than the market price of the animal, and it depends on the breed and the degree of genetic improvement of the animal. The compensation for the animals which will be slaughtered in the framework of animal diseases control program must be paid to the owner within 90 days after the slaughter of the animals.

Control on the implementation of the programme and reporting:

5. Benefits of the programme

Vaccination is regarded as one of the most effective ways of controlling and eventually eradicating bluetongue disease in affected areas. It reduces clinical signs in affected animals resulting in lower mortality and reduced economical losses, and it prevents the spread of the disease amongst livestock⁶. Monitoring measures

6.1 Active sero-surveillance

Where deemed appropriate, such a regime would be defined following risk assessment, resources available and cost benefit analysis. Where required it would target large herds (mainly cattle) following a period of heightened risk. This would allow development of specific antibodies. In addition other targeted surveillance may be undertaken, e.g. bulk milk testing.

6.2 Clinical surveillance

Early signs of disease may be mild and difficult to differentiate from other diseases so clinical surveillance may be of limited value. Therefore, no increased clinical surveillance recommended, apart from raising stakeholder awareness of disease signs.

6.3. Vector Control

No vector control methods would be recommended, as the Lithuania is disease free at this stage.

7. Targets 7.3. Targets on vaccination or treatment (one table for each year of implementation)

7.3.1. Targets on vaccination or treatment¹

Disease^(a): Bluetongue **Animal species: Cattle, sheep, goats**

| Region ^(b) | Total number of herds ^(c) in vaccination or treatment programme | Total number of animals in vaccination or treatment programme | Targets on vaccination or treatment programme | | | | | Number of young ^(d) animals expected to be vaccinated |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | Number of herds ^(c) in vaccination or treatment programme | Number of herds ^(c) expected to be vaccinated or treated | Number of animals expected to be vaccinated or treated | Number of doses of vaccine or treatment expected to be administered | Number of adults ^(d) expected to be vaccinated | |
| Lithuania | 163000 | 900000 | 163000 | 163000 | 900000 | 1 800 000 | 600000 | 300000 |
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¹ Data to provide only if appropriate .

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|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 163000 | 900000 | 163000 | 163000 | 900000 | 1 800 000 | 600000 | 300000 | | | | |

- (a) Disease and species if necessary
- (b) Region as defined in the approved eradication programme of the Member State
- (c) Herds or flocks or holdings as appropriate
- (d) Only for Bovine brucellosis and Ovine, Caprine brucellosis (*B. melitensis*) as defined in the programme

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme (one table per year of implementation)

| <u>Costs related to</u> | <u>Specification</u> | <u>Number of units</u> | <u>Unitary cost in €</u> | <u>Total amount in €</u> | <u>Community funding requested (yes/no)</u> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <u>1. Testing</u> | | | | | |
| <u>1.1. Cost of the analysis</u> | <u>Test:</u> | | | | |
| | <u>Test:</u> | | | | |
| | <u>Test:</u> | | | | |
| <u>1.2. Cost of sampling</u> | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| <u>1.3. Other costs</u> | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| <u>2. Vaccination or treatment</u> | | | | | |
| <u>2.1. Purchase of vaccine/treatment</u> | <u>BTV8 vaccine</u> | <u>1 800 000</u> | <u>1,0</u> | <u>1 800 000</u> | <u>yes</u> |
| | | | | | |

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|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <u>2.2. Distribution costs</u> | | | | | | |
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|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <u>2.3. Administering costs</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>2.4. Control costs</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>3. Slaughter and destruction</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>3.1. Compensation of animals</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>3.2. Transport costs</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>3.3. Destruction costs</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>3.4. Loss in case of slaughtering</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>3.5. Costs from treatment of products (milk, eggs, hatching eggs, etc)</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <u>4. Cleaning and disinfection</u> | | | | | | |
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