

# Lumpy skin disease

## Current Situation in Kosovo

Dr . Valdet Gjinovci

CVO

Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency

# The first confirmed outbreak in Kosovo

- On 20 June 2016 KFVA received notification of a suspected LSD case in Kamenicë municipality.
- A blood sample from the suspect animal was taken the same day and a site visit was made by KFVA HQ staff the next day.
- The sample was delivered to the National Diagnostic Science and Research Veterinary Medical Institute of Bulgaria (Sofia) on 23 June and a positive PCR result was notified on 24 June.

# Location of outbreak:

- The suspect case was a cow held on premises ID 191854, registered in village Zhujë, Municipality of Kamenice.
- The precise location of the premises is : Lat, Long: 42.6908 N, 21,6322E.
- The premises lies within 1km of the Serbian border (see map below – location of farm is pinpointed and labelled as '191854').
- The farm is isolated at the end of a rough dirt track at least 5 Km from a sealed road.
- The 'village' itself consists of just a few (four) households that are distributed at the head of a narrow valley with several hundred metres between all houses.

# Location of premises



## **Surrounding premises:**

- There are three other premises registered in the same village, all with cattle.

## **Animals involved:**

- The premise holds 21 cattle in total. Of these only the single cow has shown clinical signs of LSD.

# Further action

## Official control / restriction of the infected premises

- The case premises has been placed under strict quarantine.
- The animals showing clinical signs will be destroyed followed by safe disposal of carcasses, by-products and waste from the premises.
- All movement of cattle off the premises are banned.
- Visitors to the premises are restricted.
- The remaining cattle on the premises will have no contact with cattle from other farms.
- The farm is being visited by a veterinary inspector every few days to monitor compliance with restrictions and to check the clinical condition of all cattle present.

# Further action

## **Official control / restriction of the surrounding premises**

- The other cattle farms in the same village are being visited.
- The farmers are being informed that LSD is confirmed in the area and their farms will also be placed under legally enforced quarantine as for the case farm.
- All movement of cattle off the premises should be banned.
- Visitors to the premises should be restricted.
- Cattle should have no contact with cattle from other farms.
- These surrounding farms will be visited by a veterinary inspector every few days to monitor compliance with restrictions and to check the clinical condition of all cattle present

# National movement control

- For some time now all movements of live bovine s across the borders has been stopped and this will continue.
- Movements of all bovine animals within the municipality of the infected premises has been banned.
- Consideration is being given to banning all cattle movements and closing cattle markets across the whole country.

# Public information

- A leaflet providing simple and brief information about the disease has been prepared and will be distributed urgently.

*The key messages are:*

- The LSD is not a danger to humans;
- LSD is a potentially severe disease for cattle;
- keep your farm safe by not buying and moving cattle;
- suspicion of LSD should be notified to KFVA;
- vaccination is the best protection against the disease.
- Public information is also made available through other media and news opportunities.

# LSD Emergency Vaccination Plan

The disease situation which has given rise to vaccination necessity

- The proposed vaccination is in response to the threat of local spread of infection from currently infected locations, and suspected infected locations in Serbia and Macedonia.
- The clear experience from Greece, Bulgaria and FYROM is that a stamping out strategy has not been effective and these neighbouring countries have moved or are moving to vaccination against LSD.
- A stamping out policy is unlikely to be effective, nor is it financially or logistically viable in Kosovo.

- A cost benefit analysis carried out by the senior livestock economist working in the EU project that collaborates with KFVA has shown that vaccination will carry a benefit over costs in a scenario with conservative estimates of losses that would be caused by uncontrolled LSD infection in Kosovo.
- Protection of the cattle and buffalo population of Kosovo through rapid emergency vaccination against LSD will not only protect Kosovo cattle from infection, but will also reduce the risk of the disease spreading further north through the Balkan peninsula, via Montenegro, and Croatia

- The final objective would be to vaccinate all cattle and buffaloes in the whole territory, but as an immediate priority it is proposed to vaccinate in those municipalities along the north-eastern and south-eastern borders of Kosovo.
- These municipalities are given ‘vaccination priority’ 1

# Details of registered cattle population within the proposed vaccination zone (priority 1)

Municipality	Number of Cattle Holdings	Total registered cattle	number of PVP	number of vets
Gjilan	1,139	8915	2	6
Hani i Elezit	237	2084	1	1
Kaçanik	1,214	7937	1	1
Kamenicë	1,389	9629	3	4
Novobërdë	479	3958	2	3
Partesh	170	995	1	1
Podujevë	3,516	12000	4	5
Prishtinë	993	8790	2	2
Ranilluk	264	1472	1	2
Shtërpcë	206	1863	1	1
Viti&Klllokot	1,185	9,513	2	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,792</b>	<b>67,156</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>

# Implementation details

- A vaccination centre(s) will be set up and the allocation of additional veterinary, technical and administrative personnel to the vaccination campaign will be arranged. The vaccination centre will be supplied with:
  - sufficient amount of vaccine to complete the vaccination;
  - appropriate facilities for the transport and storage of the vaccine;
  - waste containers for used disposable vaccination equipment, empty vaccine bottles and other potentially risky waste;

- disinfectant and buckets, brushes and sponges for personal disinfection by the vaccination teams;
- equipment for catching or restraining animals for vaccination purposes;
- sufficient unique, serially numbered ear tags of a size and design appropriate animals to be vaccinated, and applicators with which to apply these tags;
- adequate supplies of the forms that will be used during the vaccination.

# Personnel to carry out the vaccination

- Vaccination shall be carried out by veterinarians contracted and acting on behalf and under supervision of the competent authority (KFVA).
- There must be a well-trained team of people that will conduct the vaccination. Persons must have a permit and be authorized from KFVA to perform the vaccination.
- KFVA will arrange training of all vets tasked with the vaccination to instruct them on the specific requirements for LSD vaccination.

# Vaccination in the field

- Before vaccination the animals will be clinically inspected.
- Any suspicion that an animal can be infected with LSD will be reported immediately, all vaccination activity at the premises will be stopped, the premises will be designated a suspect premises and investigated for LSD.
- Necessary measures shall be in place to avoid the spread of possible virus. Any residual quantities of vaccine shall be returned to the point of vaccine distribution with a written record on the number of animals vaccinated and the number of doses used.

# Progress reports and Final reports

- Vaccinations will be recorded individually for animals with their ear tag numbers and entered into the I&R database, as already is the case for all other vaccinations (similar to how anthrax vaccination is recorded).
- The PVPs will also be required to submit reports summarising vaccinations at each premises in the same way as already carried out during the *Brucella melitensis* Rev-1 campaign.
- KFVA will provide a progress report on the execution of the programme to the Commission in accordance with Article 19(5) of Directive 92/119/EEC.
- A detailed report on the completion of the programme shall be provided to the Commission and the Member States in accordance with Article 19(5) of Directive 92/119/EEC.

# Extension to cover all Kosovo territory

- To vaccinate all cattle in Kosovo would clearly be a huge task requiring about 280,000 vaccine doses in total, but is likely to be the only way to prevent widespread LSD infection in Kosovo.
- The preliminary cost-benefit analyses carried out indicate that vaccination can easily be economically justifiable, but the challenges to whole territory mass vaccination include financial and logistical ones.

Thank you for your attention