



Ref: VITT 1200/BT - ISRAEL

Date: 28 November 2006

Bluetongue in Israel

Note: Defra's International Animal Health Division (IAHD) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Bluetongue (BT) is among those diseases of major concern.

Disease Report

Israel has reported outbreaks of bluetongue in sheep in Hadarom province (see map). The outbreaks started on 13 November and were confirmed as bluetongue on 16 November (OIE, 2006). The last outbreak of BT in Israel was in Hadera in September 2003.

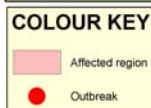
Situation Assessment

Bluetongue occurs sporadically within the Mediterranean region and Balkans with BTV 1, 2, 4, 9 and 16 serotypes being most common. Vaccination and surveillance programmes are being applied by Spain, Portugal, Corsica, Cyprus and Italy. There have been recent

outbreaks of BTV 1 in Algeria, Morocco and Sardinia. BTV 8 has been detected by serology in sentinel animals in Bulgaria. However, virus has not been isolated to confirm the presence of this serotype or any epidemiological relationship to the outbreak of BTV 8 in NW Europe.

Imports of live ruminants and genetic material are not currently allowed into the UK and EU from Israel. The TRACES electronic database indicates that there have been no imports of ruminant animals or their products into the UK from Israel during the past 3 months.

Note: The ongoing outbreak of BTV-8 in Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands is distinct from the outbreaks in the Mediterranean and Balkan regions.



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AVOIS 4 Development Team
March 2006
Source: ESRI Data & Maps CD
Created by AVOIS 3 using ArcMap
Map by IDMU-IAHD

Conclusion

Based on the disease report and situation assessment, the likelihood of the introduction of this disease from Israel into the UK before and after this outbreak is

considered negligible. Currently, IAHD does not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak but will continue to monitor developments and re-assess the situation.

References

OIE, (2006). Bluetongue in Israel. OIE Alert message 061128ISR . Received by e-mail Tuesday 28/11/2006.