



International Animal Health Division

International Animal Disease Monitoring

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment



Ref: VITT 1200/BT – Poland

Date: 6 November 2006

Bluetongue in Poland

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.

1 Disease Report

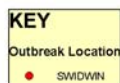
The first ever occurrence of bluetongue in Poland was reported on 3 November. The outbreak was first detected in 3 cattle on a farm in Slawoborze, Swidwin district in Zachodniopomorskie province (see map) on 26 October. This followed the routine examination of a shipment of 47 cattle of Dutch origin that had been imported into Poland from Belgium, a country already affected by bluetongue outbreaks (OIE, 2006).

2 Situation assessment and commentary

In recent months there have been outbreaks of bluetongue (BTV-8) in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium as well as a few in France. The detection of bluetongue in Poland in cattle imported from Belgium was the result of routine checks of imported animals. No clinical signs of the disease were apparent.

Investigations of the epidemiology of these cases and further testing to establish whether the virus is circulating is under way.

The location of this event to the east of the earlier outbreaks excludes any increased likelihood of wind-borne infected vector midges reaching the UK.



Bluetongue in Zachodniopomorskie Province, Poland
October - November 2006

Map by IAHD3/11/06

ARCGIS 8 Development
March 2005
Source: ESRI Data & Map
Created in ARCGIS 8.1a1

We have identified two consignments of susceptible animals (since the beginning of July 2006) that have been sent from Poland to the UK. These animals have already been tested with negative results.

3 Conclusions

The significance of this finding for the BT status of Poland cannot be evaluated until further investigations have been carried out to establish whether the virus has been circulating. It is unlikely that this event will affect the risk to the UK.

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 as new information become available.

References

OIE, (2006). Bluetongue in Poland. OIE Alert message - 061103POL. (Received Friday 03/11/2006 at 14:00)