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Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Israel

Defra's International Animal Health Division (IAHD) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is among those diseases of major concern that could have a significant impact if introduced into the UK.

Introduction

The Israel veterinary authorities have informed the OIE that LSD was confirmed in milking cows on 13/06/2007 in a village at Alumim, Hadarom Province close to the Gaza strip (see map). Control measures are in place and the affected animals were destroyed (OIE, 2007a, b, c). The last reported outbreak of LSD in Israel was in June 2006. This outbreak followed two recent outbreaks of LSD in the Gaza strip in the preceding weeks.

Situation Assessment

LSD is caused by a pox virus. Further details about LSD may be obtained from the preliminary outbreak assessment on LSD in Israel that was produced in June 2006 (see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/pdf/lsd-israel0606.pdf>).



Israel is not on the EU approved list for importation to the EU of live ruminants or their products. TRACES (European Commission electronic notification system) indicates that there have been no imports of any risk commodities from Israel since 1 April 2007. Personal imports of meat of ruminants or meat products are not permitted from Israel.

Conclusion

Based on the disease report and situation assessment, the likelihood of the introduction of LSD by legal trade from Israel to the UK before and after these outbreaks is considered to be negligible. Nevertheless, this emphasises the importance of implementing and maintaining appropriate control measures with regard to illegal imports to mitigate potential risks. Currently, FFG-IAH does not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak but will continue to monitor the situation.

References

- OIE (2007a) Lumpy skin disease, Israel. ISR 13-06-07 OIE Alert Message. Received by e-mail on 13 June 2007.
- OIE (2007b) Lumpy skin disease, Israel. OIE Immediate notification report 5568, 13/06/2007. https://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/reports/en_imm_0000005568_20070613_182546.pdf (accessed 14/06/2007).
- OIE (2007c) Lumpy skin disease, Israel. WAHID report. http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=single_report&pop=1&reportid=5568 (accessed 14/06/2007).