

## Summary

### **Advice 07-2007 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC concerning the odds that Bluetongue (BT) re-emerges in the spring of 2007, the evaluation of proposals for measures to prevent and to suppress BT, in particular by vaccination, and the surveillance level of wildlife.**

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the chance exists that the Bluetongue virus overwinters and re-emerges in the spring of 2007. The weather circumstances and the duration of the viraemia in receptive species will strongly influence this. Taking into account the favourable conditions for *Culicoides* in 2006, it is estimated that the larvae population, which is ready to emerge in 2007, will probably be large. If at the time of awakening the temperature is such that the virus can multiply in the vector, it can be expected that the illness will occur in animals which were not immunized during the first epidemic.

For this reason the Scientific Committee recommends to proceed with the active and passive epidemiological surveillance of BT in ruminants and with the monitoring of the vector activity. The Committee recommends also to avoid contact between ruminants and *Culicoides*, when *Culicoides* resume their activity (by the use of insecticides, for example).

According to the Scientific Committee it is indicated to vaccinate cattle and sheep with an inactivated vaccine, as soon as it is available, in order to reduce the economical impact of the illness (suppression of clinical signs). Vaccination must be considered within an enzootic context. A correct implementation of the vaccine will lead to a gradual reduction of the virus transfer, under the condition that wild fauna doesn't form a significant virus reservoir. In order to be efficient the vaccination must be applied generally and over all contaminated areas of Northern Europe. The Committee recommends also to develop a multivalent vaccine against several serotypes of BT.

The Scientific Committee recommends to monitor BT in goats to elucidate the role of this species in the epidemiological context and to get a better estimation of the persistence of the disease. It is also recommended to continue the epidemiological surveillance of BT in deer, which could act as indicators for the presence of the illness, and to extend the surveillance to the Flanders region.

It is recognized that the stabling of animals during the period of infectious viraemia goes along with several practical objections. It is advised to allow for animal movements under strict sanitary conditions (see ministerial decree November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001).

The full text is available on <http://www.favv-afisca.fgov.be/wetenschappelijkcomite/adviezen/2007.asp> in French and Dutch.