

Bluetongue Risk Assessment

Situation:

See the Defra updated risk assessment. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>

Assessment

Channel Islands Veterinary Advisors have assessed the threat of an incursion of bluetongue into the Channel Islands as Low to Medium¹. This rating is based on the current locations of bluetongue virus (BTV-8) in mainland France and the likelihood of an incursion by windborne infected midges. It is subject to change as the situation develops. This assessment is enough to recommend the voluntary use of vaccine, to allow livestock producers to have the opportunity to protect the health of their animals. It is expected that decisions on whether or not to vaccinate will take into account the views of the livestock producer's private veterinarian and the need for booster vaccinations as well as the risk of a bluetongue incursion. Possible route of incursion is through and the wind-borne movement of infected vectors from France.

Conclusion

The current assessment of the risk of an incursion of bluetongue virus into the United Kingdom was assessed as low, prior to the event occurring in mainland France; this will be re-assessed when more information is available about emergence of disease in such a location. The Channel Islands has assessed this risk as low to medium with a medium level of uncertainty and therefore has agreed to permit the use of approved inactivated vaccines for all the current serotypes. All inactivated vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency will be permitted in the Channel Islands.

25/09/15