



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 11/5/2008

GAIN Report Number: AU8011

Austria

Livestock and Products

First Case of Blue Tongue Disease in Austria

2008

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Report Highlights:

On November 5, 2008, the Austrian Ministry of Health, Family and Youth confirmed the first case of Blue Tongue (BT) Disease. The outbreak was detected in the province of Upper Austria during a routine examination. Protection and surveillance zones have been established. All cattle, sheep and goats in entire Austria will be vaccinated against BT until March 2009.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Vienna [AU1]
[AU]

First Outbreak of Blue Tongue in the area of Schaerding/Upper Austria

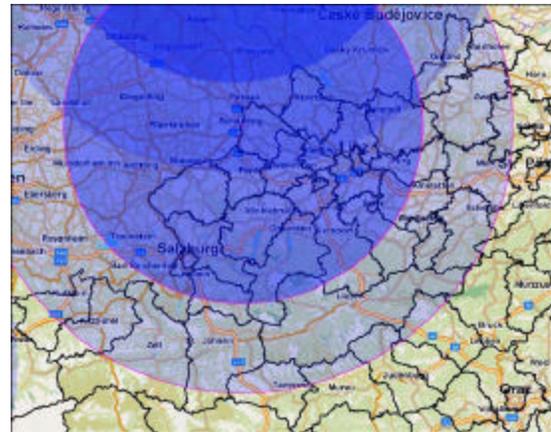
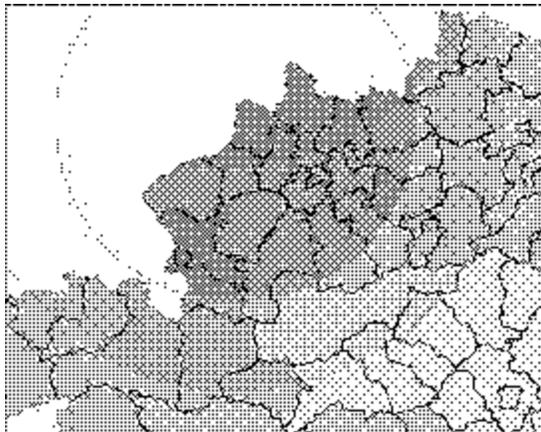
On November 5, 2008, the Austrian Ministry of Health, Family and Youth confirmed the first case of Blue Tongue (BT) Disease. Before that time Austria was free of Blue Tongue. The disease was detected in the province of Upper Austria during a routine examination by the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES). After the finding the AGES sent a second blood sample of the contaminated cattle to the European reference laboratory in Pirbright/UK for further testing. The animal does not show any clinical indications of the disease and will not be culled. Comprehensive testing on BT antibodies in milk and blood of susceptible animals will be carried out in the county of Schaerding.

Protection and Surveillance Zones

The Health Ministry ordered the protection (20 km) and surveillance (150 km) zones according to the Austrian administrative act "Blue Tongue – Combat Ordinance" to come into effect immediately. Transport of susceptible animals outside of the restricted zones and from the protection to the surveillance zone is only allowed under certain restrictions and subject to approval by the veterinary authority. Before the outbreak in Upper Austria only in the western provinces Vorarlberg and Tirol protection and surveillance zones were established (proximity to German outbreaks).

Vaccination Plan

As of July 2008, mandatory vaccination against BT took place in Vorarlberg and Tirol (protection and surveillance zones due to German outbreaks). Within these two provinces all susceptible animals are already protected through vaccination. After the outbreak in Upper Austria the Austrian authorities ordered that all cattle, sheep and goats in entire Austria have to be vaccinated by law. The vaccination period starts immediately and will be finished by March 2009. The costs for the vaccination are covered by federal budget.



Maps of BT outbreak in Upper Austria
Source: Ministry of Health, Family and Youth