

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Update - Lumpy Skin Disease Spreads to Northern States of India

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: Pest/Disease Occurrences, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Livestock and Products, Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy

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Report Highlights:

This report is an update to FAS New Delhi's recent GAIN-INDIA | IN2022-0066 | Outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease in Cattle Raises Alarm in Cattle Rearing Communities in the State of Gujarat report. The outbreak of lumpy skin disease (LSD) is spreading to the northern states of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. Indian media sources report that cattle deaths from LSD number already around 2,111 head in Rajasthan and 1,679 in Gujarat, and now 672 in Punjab, 38 in Himachal Pradesh, and 22 in the Yamunanagar district of Haryana. Since the beginning of August, over 25,000 cases are being reported in Rajasthan alone and more than 37,000 cases in Gujarat. The outbreak is rapidly becoming a cause of concern for dairy farmers, who fear incurring huge financial losses as productive cattle die off. India has not notified the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) of the latest 2022 LSD outbreak.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

This report is an update to FAS New Delhi's recent [GAIN-INDIA | IN2022-0066 | Outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease in Cattle Raises Alarm in Cattle Rearing Communities in the State of Gujarat](#) report. The outbreak of lumpy skin disease (LSD) is spreading to the northern states of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. Indian media sources report that cattle deaths from LSD number already around 2,111 head in Rajasthan and 1,679 in Gujarat, and now 672 in Punjab, 38 in Himachal Pradesh, and 22 in the Yamunanagar district of Haryana. Since the beginning of August, over 25,000 cases are being reported in Rajasthan alone and more than 37,000 cases in Gujarat. The outbreak is rapidly becoming a cause of concern for dairy farmers, who fear incurring huge financial losses as productive cattle die off.

Official case numbers are neither available on Indian government websites, nor has India notified the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) of the latest 2022 LSD outbreak. Media sources report that cattle vaccination numbers in Punjab now stand at 3,033. Seeking to contain the spread of the LSD outbreak, the Punjab state government is discontinuing all cattle fairs across the state.

Background:

The highest number of cases detected are concentrated in the in six districts of Punjab, including Jalandhar, Moga, Muktsar, Barnala, Bathinda and Faridkot. The virus has now spread to hundreds of dairy cows in neighboring Haryana's Yamunanagar district, as well as to the Bhiwani, Karnal and Ambala districts. In Himachal Pradesh, six districts including Solan, Sirmair, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra and Una are detecting cases.

LSD Outbreak – Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana



Source: Central Intelligence Agency, FAS New Delhi office research.

What is LSD: Lumpy skin disease is an infectious viral disease in cattle. The LSD virus is a member of the *capripoxvirus* genus of *Poxviridae*, also known as Neethling virus. It is a viral disease transmitted by insects that feed on cattle blood, such as flies, mosquitoes, and ticks. Symptoms include fever, discharge from the animal's eyes and nose, excess salivation, blisters on the body, and reduced milk production. Afflicted animals will also have trouble eating. The virus has an economic impact, since affected animals will experience permanent damage to their skins (impacting hide values), suffer from chronic debility, reduced milk production, as well as poor growth, infertility, and even death. LSD originated in Africa has been sweeping Gujarat for three months since the first case was reported on April 23 in Kaiyari village in Abdasa taluka of Kutch district, where many depend on cattle-herding for their livelihood.



Source: Zee News, India.

LSD Control Measures Being Taken: The Indian government is adopting measures to control the spread of LSD. It has developed a homologous live-attenuated LSD vaccine “Lumpi-ProVacInd” to control LSD after conducting experimental and field trials.

The protocol for the commercialization of vaccine is being expedited by the government so that the vaccine can be made available to cattle farmers as quickly as possible. Impacted states have been recurring to the use of goat pox vaccines to control the spread of disease. The Punjab state government run veterinary and animal science university has also issued [Guidelines and Preventive Measures](#) on lumpy skin disease.

Attachments:

No Attachments.