

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Netherlands EU-27

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Schmallenberg Virus Found in Cattle

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Schmallenberg virus has been found in cattle in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. So far, only Russia imposed a ban on sheep and goats, and related products. If Russia would impose a ban on the import of live cattle and beef from these countries, an annual trade value of US\$ 150 million would be affected.

On January 23rd, the Schmallenberg virus has been found in calves in the Netherlands. Previously it was also found in cattle in Belgium on January 19th and in Germany on November 21st. These incidents have been reported to the OIE. On January 20th, the European Commission and EU Member States discussed a monitoring program for the disease, which will be implemented the coming weeks. The issue has also been discussed at the EU Agricultural Council meeting on January 23rd. Presentations about the Schmallenberg virus on the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) can be downloaded at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/scfcah/animal_health/presentations_en.htm#1112012012

Dutch experts expect that the Dutch calves were infected in August / September 2011, and that therefore that the peak of calves infected with the virus will be born during March / April this year. The major negative effect on the production of the virus is the cause of abnormalities of the born animals. The Dutch Government informed the public that there is no known effect on human health. Below an overview of the farms suspected, inspected and the results of the test in Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Germany	Farms Suspected	Farms inspected	Virus found	Virus not found	Awaiting result
Cattle			6		
Sheep			25		
Goat			1		
Total			32		

Netherlands	Farms Suspected	Farms inspected	Virus found	Virus not found	Awaiting result
Cattle	136	91	2		
Sheep	134	107	72		
Goat	13	9	2		
Total	283		76	131	76

Belgium	Farms Suspected	Farms inspected	Virus found	Virus not found	Awaiting result
Cattle		55	1		
Sheep		42	27		
Goat		2	0		

Total		99	28		
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UK	Farms Suspected	Farms inspected	Virus found	Virus not found	Awaiting result
Cattle					
Sheep			4		
Goat					
Total					

The Russian Government banned the import of sheep and goats, including related products from Germany and the Netherlands. In the near future, experts of the Netherlands, Germany, Russia and the European Commission will meet to discuss this issue. Mexico banned imports of sperm and embryo's of sheep, goats and cattle from the Netherlands. A Russian ban on the import of live cattle, mostly heifers, would have significant trade implications (see tables below). Another important trade flow is the export of beef from Germany to Russia.

Exports of Live Cattle, Beef and Veal to Russia in 2011, Value		
	Live cattle	Beef and veal
The Netherlands	45 million US\$	1 million US\$
Belgium	0	7 million US\$
Germany	26 million US\$	80 million US\$
EU Total	110 million US\$	320 million US\$

Source: based on January – October trade statistics of GTIS.

Exports of Live Cattle, Beef and Veal to Russia in 2011, Quantity		
	Live cattle (head)	Beef and veal (MT)
The Netherlands	15,000	500
Belgium	0	2,000
Germany	9,000	18,000
EU Total	35,000	75,000

Source: based on January – October trade statistics of GTIS.

Information in this report is based on press releases of the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA), a letter of the Dutch Agricultural Minister to the Dutch Parliament, the Belgian Food Safety Agency (FAVV), and FAS Offices in The Hague, Berlin, London and Brussels.