



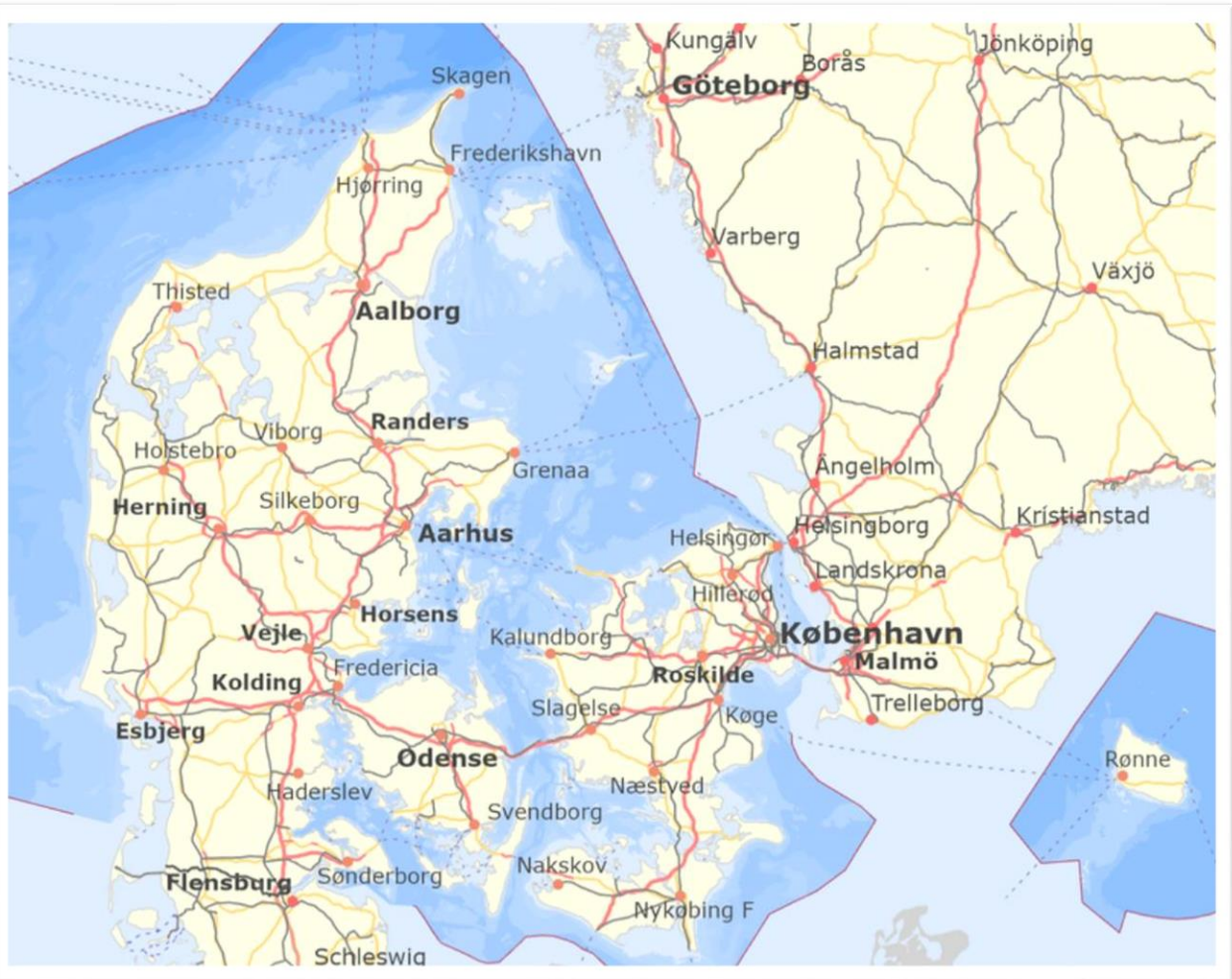
Ministeriet for Fødevarer,
Landbrug og Fiskeri
Fødevarestyrelsen

Bluetongue in Denmark

SCoPAFF - 28th of August 2024

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Denmark – Livestock statistics



Species	Animals	Establishments
Goats	18.091	3.030
Sheep	134.703	5.538
Cattle	1.422.066	13.605

*26/8/2024



History of bluetongue in Denmark

- **The first outbreak of bluetongue (serotype 8) in Denmark was in 2007 in a sheep holding.**
- **A total of 15 establishments tested positive in 2008 (13 cattle and 2 sheep establishments).**
- **From 2008 to 2010 vaccination campaigns were conducted.**
- **No further outbreaks and since 1 January 2011, Denmark was recognised as free from bluetongue.**



First outbreak

- **8.8.2024 - clinical suspicion in sheep**
- **Clinical signs: Excessive salivation, lesions in the mouth and on the tongue, and a blue tongue. The sheep died.**
- **9.8.2024 outbreak confirmed by national reference laboratory (SSI) – antibody and PCR-positive - Serotype 3**
- **Mixed holding with 180 sheep and 41 cattle**
- **The holding is located in Tønder municipality**



- Pictures by veterinary practitioner Susanne Sommerlund, LVK



Suspended disease-free status

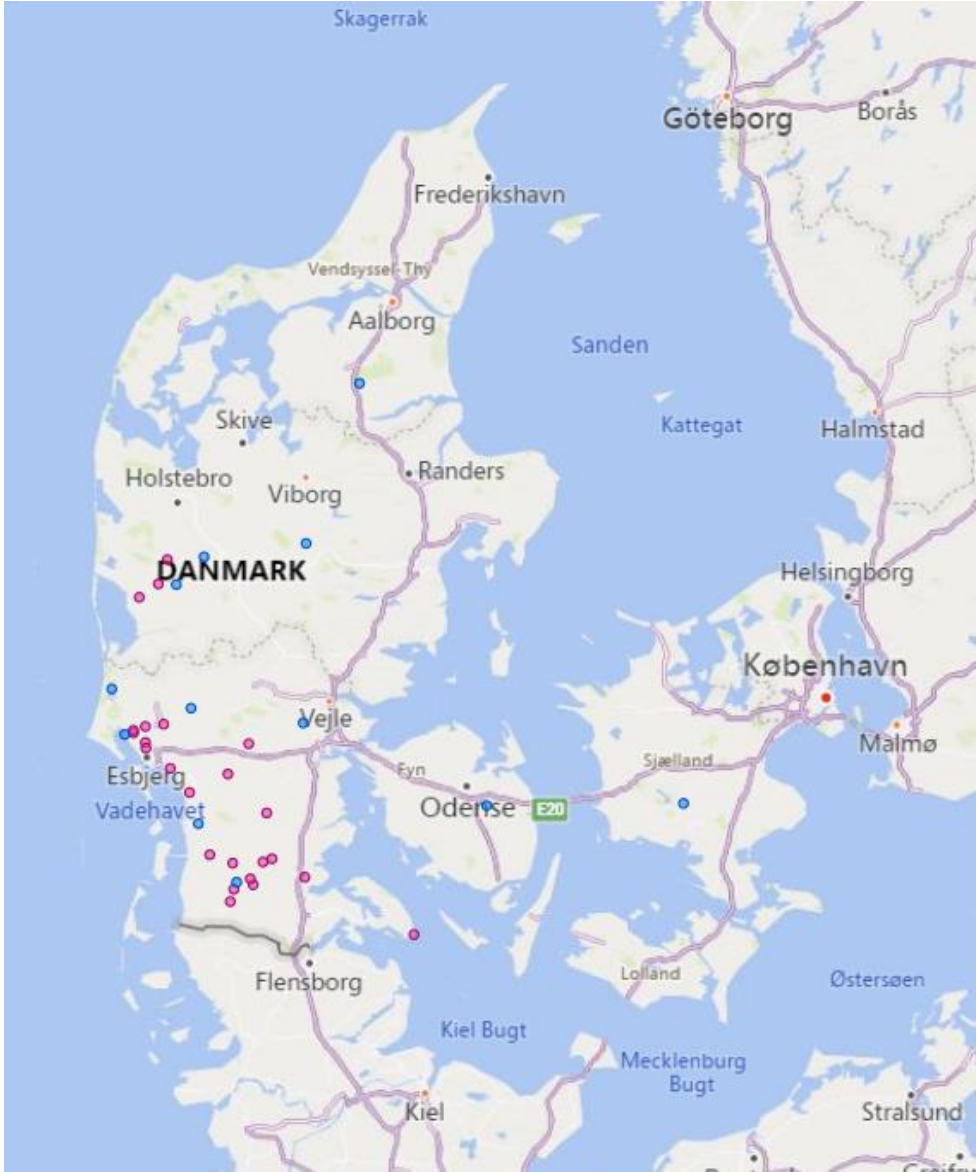
- **Free status → suspended 9.8.2024 by the DVFA**
- **Due to the outbreak on the 9th of August 2024, and as a transitional measure, the DVFA – on the same date - suspended Denmark's disease-free status for bluetongue virus in accordance with article 82, paragraph 3 of Regulation (EU) 2020/689.**
- **In order to maintain the suspended disease-free status and with the aim to restore the disease-free status, we will fulfil the requirements of article 82, paragraph 3 of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 and keep the Commission informed on the situation.**

Current situation in DK as per the 27th of August 2024 at 12:00 PM

Outbreaks	Suspicious
24	12

- Information on outbreaks, suspicions and affected holdings is available on our homepage (in English). Data is updated daily.
[Bluetongue - Danish Veterinary and Food Administration \(foedevarestyrelsen.dk\)](https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk)

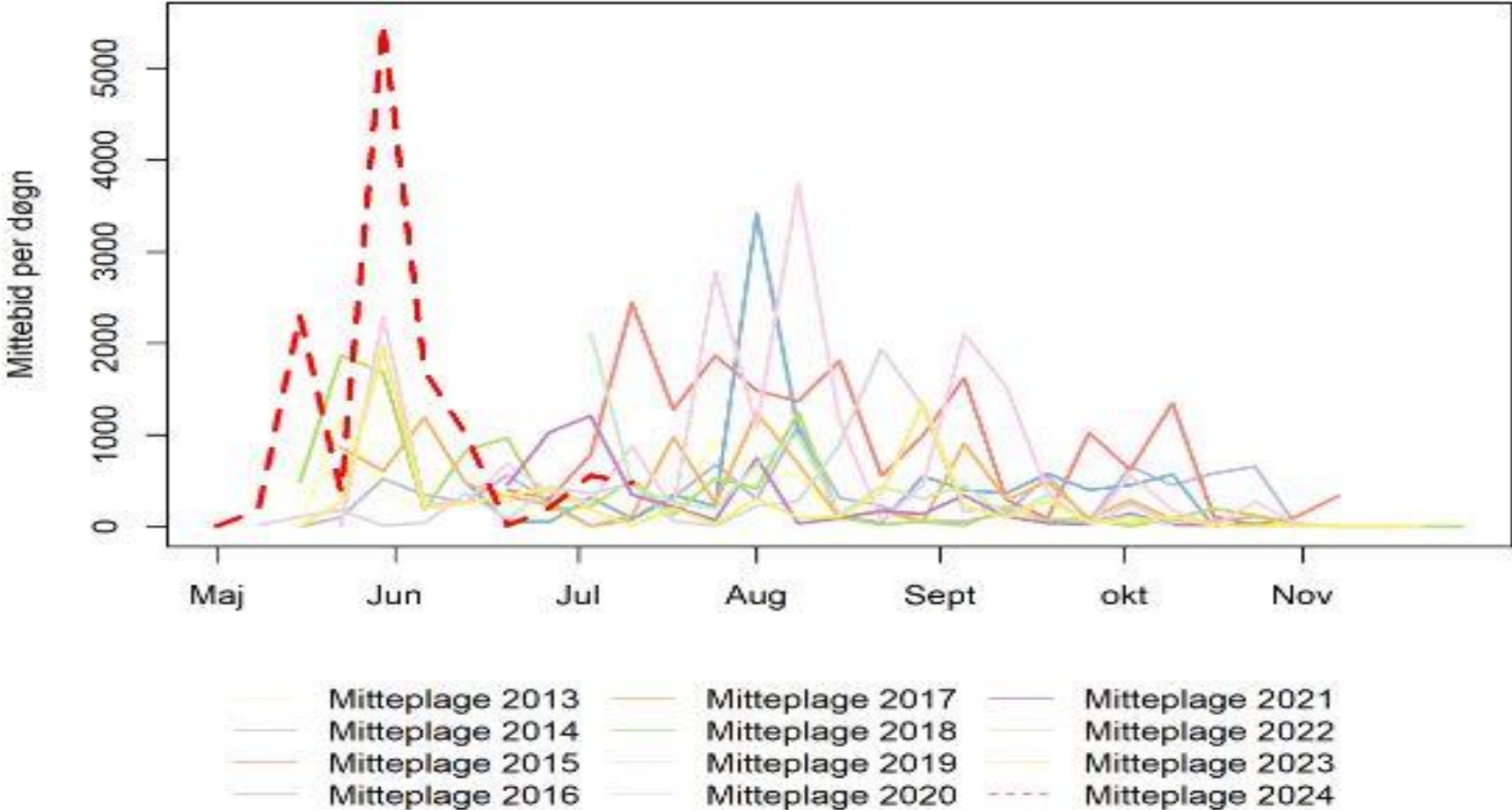
Current situation in DK as per the 27th of August 2024 at 12:00 PM



Pink dots = confirmed outbreaks
Blue dots = suspicions



Vector surveillance - www.myggetal.dk



Latest risk assessment (DK-VET) and rapid risk assessment (DVFA)

Dansk Veterinær Konsortium



mitterne). Yderligere positive dyr, der diagnosticeres inden da skyldes enten, at der allerede har været mindst en forudgående generation af smitte i drøvtyggere, der ikke er opdaget, eller de må være blevet smittet i samme omgang som de første positive besætninger af inficerede mitter introduceret fra syd.

Hvad er sandsynligheden for introduktion af BTV-3 til Norddanmark og Østdanmark gennem inficerede Culicoides fra Syddanmark indenfor de næste tre måneder?

Som før nævnt, er smittepotentialet både drevet af mittedensiteten og af geografiske forskelle i mikroklimatiske temperaturer, der kan påvirke inkubationstiden af virus. Vi har tidligere set, at et enkelt udbrud i august 2008 (BTV-8) kunne spredes til Ringkøbing Fjord inden for en måned, til trods for vaccineforanstaltninger. I princippet kan virus nå fra Alslev til Korsør på lidt over 14 dage (afstand ca. 180 km), og til Skagen (afstand ca. 272 km) på lidt over 20 dage, hvis vi antager en spredningshastighed på 12.6 km om dagen. Derfor må vi forvente, at BTV-3 kan nå til både Nordjylland og Østdanmark inden for 3 måneder, givet at ingen sikkerhedsforanstaltninger sættes i værk. Ud fra figur 3 ses det dog, at R_0 historisk falder kraftigt, jo længere vi når hen på sæsonen, så et evt. udbrud kan muligvis blive standset af temperaturens påvirkning af inkubationstiden og dermed R_0 . Dog har vi set fra Holland, at smitte sker helt ind i december måned. DK-VET har i en tidligere rapport til FVST (18. september 2019, Sagsnr. 061-0026/19-3680) vurderet: "I Danmark kan infektiøse værtssøgende mitter være smittet med virus fra starten af april indtil midt i september. Efter midt-september vil mitter, der inficeres ikke kunne nå at udvikle virus i spytkirtlerne inden vinteren⁵. Men mitter, der smittes sidst i sæsonen og inden midt-september, vil potentielt stadig være i live, være infektiøse og værtssøgende indtil midt-november. Infektiøse værter, og dermed risikoen ved introduktion af inficerede værter, udgør derfor kun en risiko for smitte af nye værter indtil midt-september, mens de resulterende infektiøse mitter fortsat udgør en risiko for nye værter helt frem til midt-november⁵."

Arbejdsgruppen vurderer, at det er sandsynligt (66-90%), at virus spredes til Nordjylland og Østdanmark inden for de næste tre måneder. Usikkerheden omkring dette estimat er moderat (33-66%).

- It is likely that BTV-3 will spread to northern and eastern Denmark within the next 3 months

Rapid risk assessment for the spread of bluetongue virus (BTV) into other areas in Denmark, in relation to the BTV situation in Denmark pr. 20 august 2024.

Rapid risk assessment:

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration per 20 August 2024 reported ten BTV-3 outbreaks (PCR confirmed) in Denmark. It is the first time that BTV has been confirmed in Denmark since 2008.

In summary, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration estimates that the probability of spread for BTV-3 to all areas in Denmark via midges, as a result of the BTV situation in Denmark, is as follows:

Risk pathway	Probability of spread pr. 20.08.2024
Vectors	High

Preventive measures to reduce the risk of disease:

- Animals housed indoor during the night are less exposed to midges.
- Repellants and insecticides applied to the animals may reduce the exposure to midges.
- Vaccination against BTV-3 is possible, but special conditions apply.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration reminds of the obligation to notify any suspicion of BTV. Clinical symptoms may include shortness of breath, nasal discharge, lacrimation, fever, lameness and accumulation of fluid in the head.

BTV is not a zoonosis and does not infect humans.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration is monitoring the situation in Denmark and the rest of Europe, constantly assessing whether there is a need to update this assessment.



Vaccines

- **As per the 19th of August 2024, the DVFA has permitted vaccination against BTV-3.**
 - **BULTAVO-3 (Boehringer Ingelheim).**
- **Marketing permit has not yet been obtained, therefore a derogation has been made according to Art. 110, point 2 in Reg. 2019/6.**
- **Vaccination is voluntary but recommended by the DVFA for sheep, goats and cattle and for healthy animals in BTV affected establishments.**
- **Vaccination is ongoing. As per the 27th of August 2024, more than 62.100 doses have been distributed.**



Surveillance due to outbreak

Passive:

- **Operators' notification duty (clinical signs, increased mortality etc.).**
- **AM/PM inspections in slaughterhouses.**
- **Inspections in relation to export.**
- **Other inspections.**
- **Suspicion in laboratories.**

Active (proposed scheme by the DVFA still on the drawing board):

- **Sampling scheme based on bulk milk samples from unvaccinated sentinel dairy cattle establishments.**
- **Sampling prevalence 5 % with a 95 % confidence interval from each of the three areas covered by the veterinary inspection units.**
- **Frequency: Monthly in the vector active period (April through to November).**
- **Expected number of samples: Monthly 90 samples / yearly 630 samples.**
- **Now → up to the industry.**



Communication

- The European Commission and CVOs.
- Specific EU member states (Germany, The Netherlands etc.) and third countries.
- Letters to all relevant holdings and veterinary practitioners (approx. 20.000).
- New BTV website in spring 2024 with FAQs, daily updates, and press releases.
- SoMe-awareness May-June (first two graphics = 1,1 million people).
- Press and live TV-interviews (72 references to BTV in media 9/8-20/8).
- Physical handing out of infographic in May – in collaboration with the industry.

The screenshot shows the official website for Bluetongue virus in Denmark. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Find smiley', 'Kontakt', 'Om os', 'Nyheder', 'Presse', 'Job', 'Lovstof', and 'English'. Below that, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Dyr > Dyresygdomme > Bluetongue | Bluetongue – nyheder og viden'. The main content area starts with a large image of cows in a green field, with the word 'BLUETONGUE' in a blue banner below it. A paragraph explains that bluetongue is a viral disease affecting ruminants like sheep, goats, cattle, and deer, and directs users to a page with more information. Below this, there are three columns of content: 'Aktuelt om bluetongue' with a date of 21-08-2024, 'Til landmænd: Det skal du vide om bluetongue', and 'Til dyrlæger: Sådan anmeldes mistanke om bluetongue'. To the right, a large infographic titled 'Bluetongue virus' with the slogan 'HOLD DET UDE' provides detailed information in Danish, including sections on 'Vidste du ...', 'Spredning', 'Kliniske tegn', 'Hvis dine dyr bliver syge', and 'Vaccination'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Fødevarestyrelsen', 'Landbruginfo', and 'Dansk Fåreavl og Dansk Gede Union'.





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Questions?