

About this dossier

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Eradication: Final report for Bovine Tuberculosis 2019

For each approved annual or multi-annual programme Member States shall submit to the Commission by the 30 April each year an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred (Art 14 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014).

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Reporting period

From: 2019

To: 2019

Year of implementation: 2019

1. Technical implementation of the programme

1.1 Description and evaluation of the evolution of the epidemiological situation, the technical implementation of the activities foreseen under the programme and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.

The programme for eradication of bovine buffalo tuberculosis is annual and covers the following objectives:

- to continue with, and step up, animal health measures to prevent tuberculosis in bovine and buffalo;
- to intensify disease eradication on infected holdings so that they can be declared OTbF;
- to retain OTbF status for holdings that have already achieved this objective;
- to maintain the status of OTbF of the Provinces and Regions that have been already declared free from the disease;
- to obtain the status of OTbF of new Provinces and Regions of Italy.

To give to the local veterinary services the instruments to speed up the process of eradication especially in those regions that are proceeding slowly, the Ministry of Health, has renewed the Ministerial Ordinance 28 May 2015 (ANNEX 1), in force until June 2020, applied in all territories OTbF as well as the not OTbF, improving in this way, an uniform eradication of the disease in all Italy, that provided in summary the following measures:

- 1) Responsibility of the Chief of local Veterinary service on the control of 100% of the herds;
- 2) Registration of pastures;
- 3) Controls of Dealers;
- 4) Control of fattening herds;
- 5) Controls on animals before and after movement;

- 6) Electronic identifications of animals of the outbreak (rumen bolus);
- 7) Electronic identifications of animals subjected to movement;
- 8) Capture and control of animals at pasture that have no owner or that have an owner that does not assure capture and the restraint of animals;
- 9) Guidelines for stamping-out;
- 10) Elaboration, already at the suspect, of the epidemiological investigations, following the guide lines of the Ministry of health (ANNEX 2);
- 11) Compulsory use of the data base, SANAN and SIMAN;
- 12) Sanctions and withdrawal of the status of OTF of the herds in case of fraud;
- 13) Control of the efficacy and efficiency by local and regional veterinary service.

In Italy Bovine Tuberculosis is eradicated in most part of the Nation. Of the 20 Regions present in Italy, 9 Regions (including the autonomous Provinces of Trento e Bolzano) and 9 Provinces of 4 Regions (Sardegna, Marche, Lazio and Abruzzo) have been declared Officially TB Free (OTbF) ANNEX 3.

In 2019 the Regions Valle D'Aosta, Abruzzo and Molise, and 2 Provinces of Sardegna (Sassari and Carbonia) have reached the conditions provided for in the Directive 64/432 to present the request to be declared OTbF, actually under evaluation of the Commission. For Abruzzo and Valle D'Aosta the DGSANTE have request the deletion of their data in this final report.

The total number of herds registered in all Italy in 2019 (98078) is decreased respect the number of herds registered in 2018 (99595).

The total number of herds, excluded the Campania Buffalo, registered in 2019 in the not OTbF territories (45838) is decreased respect the number of herds registered in 2018 (54365). With the Campania Buffalo population included, the total number of herds in the Territories not OTbF result to be 46971.

The total number of herds under control in 2019, excluded Campania Buffalo (38785) are decreased respect at the total number of herds under control in 2018 (43142). If we consider also the Campania Buffalo, the total number of herds under controls become 39901.

The number of outbreaks registered in 2019, excluded the ones registered in Campania Buffalo (226) are decreased respect the number of outbreaks registered in 2018 (232). At the opposite, the outbreaks registered in the Campania Buffalo population in 2019 (103) are increased respect the 2018 (57). This figure the negative impact of the Campania buffalo population on the eradication plan, infact, if we include the buffalo herds of Campania Region in the calculation, a turnaround is recorded of the progress of the eradication plan and an increasing of the outbreaks in 2019 (329) respect 2018 (289).

The Italian prevalence, Campania buffalo population excluded, calculated, by the National Reference Centre of Tuberculosis, on all the herds in the national territory, in 2019, has been, 0,24%, while the prevalence registered in the not OTbF Regions in the same year has been 0,69% with an incidence of 0,54%. With the Campania buffalo population become 0,99% of prevalence and 0,74% of incidence. These data of prevalence represent a stationary situation in the process of eradication of bovine tuberculosis respect at the data registered in 2018 in all national territory (0,24%) but an increasing in the Territories still not OTbF (0,58% in 2018 - 0,69% in 2019) (ANNEX 4 and 5).

This standstill in the progress of the eradication of the disease in the Country, find the reasons in the negative results registered in some regions: Campania bovine (0,78% vs 0,62%) Marche 1,16% vs 0,57%) and Sicily (1,50% vs 1,25%). Regards Sicily, is important to underline that while has been registered in 2019 a negative result of prevalence respect 2018, if we look at the trend of prevalence in the last 6 years, starting by the 2014, we positively appreciate that, has been registered a decreasing of more than 50%.

Following are indicated the prevalence registered in the mentioned years:

2014 - 3,06%, 2015 - 3,71%, 2016 - 2,74%, 2017 - 2,1%, 2018 - 1,25% and 2019 1,50%. Also the reduction of registered outbreaks, from 296 in 2014 at 140 in 2019, is more than 50%.

No as positive, as in Sicily, the considerations that we may deduce, looking at the data of the last six years in buffalo population in Campania Region. Infact the prevalence registered in 2014 (1,97%) was much more lower of the one registered in 2019 (9,23%). An increasing of 5 times bigger, that the Campania Region ascribe at problems of bio-security of the farms in some territories of the Province of Caserta. During the Working Table* on Campania Buffalo, held by the Ministry of Health in august 2019, the Region has explained that this farms are very close each other and that this contiguity is the main cause of the persistence of the disease. Other cause that contribute at the diffusion of the disease is the irregular movement of the animals and for this problem the Region has proposed a genetic plan for the certain identification of the animals.

Considered this increasing of prevalence of bovine tuberculosis, the Ministry of Health in August 2019 has inaugurated the:

a) "working table on bovine tuberculosis in Sicily", which was attended by representatives of the: Veterinary Services of the Department of Health of the Sicily Region; IZS Sicily and the National Center of Reference for bovine- buffalo tuberculosis; Local Veterinary Authorities of Messina, Enna, Catania, Ragusa and Syracuse, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, of the Breeders Associations of Coldiretti and of the Sicily Breeders Union, to discuss the current situation of bovine tuberculosis in Sicily. At the end of

the works, the CVO concluded by entrusting the responsible of the veterinary services of the Sicily Region, to elaborate with the collaboration of the colleagues of the Local Veterinary Authorities involved and with the IZS Sicily, a document in which are listed the difficulties encountered during the application of the tuberculosis eradication plans in Sicily and the relative solutions that can be put in place to overcome the identified problems in a definitive way.

b) *Working table in Campania to deal with the situation of buffalo tuberculosis and check the problems relating to the application of this eradication plan. The technical table was attended by: the Region, the competent laboratories, the National Reference Center of tuberculosis and the breeders' associations. At conclusion of the reunion of the panel, a permanent working group was created to supervise the progress of the plan and find solutions to the problems identified.

1.2 Details on the level of achievement of the targets set in the approved programme and technical difficulties.

Analysis of the data received from the Regions regarding the eradication activities performed between 2019 and 2018 has revealed the situation described below (ANNEX 4/5).

The bovine national population in 2019 is decreased (98078), respect to 2018 (99595) due to the overall reduction of farms.

Also the number of bovine herds, excluded Campania Buffalo, subjected to program in 2019 in not OTbF Regions is decreased (38785) respect to 2018 (54365), as well as the number of positive holdings (226) 2019, respect to 2018 (232). The number of stamping out (10) in 2019, in bovine herds, is almost the same respect 2018 (11). The percentage of the control performed in 2019 is lower (98.67%), respect at the percentage of controls performed in 2018 (99.71%).

The prevalence and incidence registered in not OTbF territories, excluded the one registered in Buffalo in Campania, in 2019 are increased (0,69% - 0,54%) respect to the results of 2018 (0,58% - 0,49%) (ANNEX 4/5), but has been registered a positive reduction of the number of outbreaks in 2019 (226) in comparison at the number of outbreaks registered in 2018 (232).

The target of prevalence of TBC, indicated for Italy in the "WORKING DOCUMENT SANTE/2017/10186 rev 1 Guidelines for the Union co-funded program of eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonosis for the years 2018-2020" provide for a minimum of 20% of reduction of prevalence calculated on the baseline 2015 = 0,48%. On the base of this calculation in 2018 is expected a prevalence of 0,38% and in 2020 0,30%.

The percentage of prevalence calculated, by the National Centre of Reference of TBC, on the total number of Italian herds, where are been registered 228 outbreaks is 0,24%.

Concerning the target, is possible to say that beyond the negative result registered in some area, there are improvements in the application of the program like the reduction of outbreaks, the national prevalence and the increase in the territories that have reached the conditions for being officially declared free (Valle D'Aosta, Abruzzo, Molise, the Province of Sassari and Carbonia in Sardinia Region). This general positive result may push to think that the new Ministerial Order and his prorogation is giving to the veterinarians services the instrument to proceed with success in the eradication of the disease.

From the analysis of the data in not OTbF Region the most important issues are:

- 1) The regions, Basilicata, Campania, Lazio, Marche, Puglia and Sicilia have performed 100% of controls.
- 4) At exclusion of the prevalence registered in Sicily (1.50%) and in Marche Region (1,16%) the maximum prevalence registered in the other regions was 0,35% of the Calabria region.
- 5) Lazio (0,0%) Molise (0,0%), and Sardegna (0.0%) have reached the condition of 0,1% provided for in the Directive CEE 64/432.

Is also important underline that the Region Sardegna, Valle D'Aosta and Abruzzo have already submitted at the Commission the request of OTbF for the entire Region (Abruzzo e Valle D'Aosta) or part of it (Sardegna).

FOCUS on BUFFALO Tuberculosis in Campania

The buffalo population is decreased from 1158 herds in 2018 to 1133 herds in 2019.

The controlled herds are decreased from 1132 in 2018 to 1116 in 2019, the number of positive herds (103) is increased respect at what registered in 2018 (57).

The stamping-outs executed in 2019 (13) are increased respect at those executed in 2018 (10).

The number of controlled herds in 2019 is 100% like in 2018 and in line with the 100% provided for in the renew of the Ministerial Order 28 of May 2015.

The prevalence and incidence registered in 2019 is higher (9,23% - 6,27%) respect to the results of 2018 (5.04%-2,47%).

The Campania region report also that the cause of this increasing of prevalence is due at the new Regional Decree that provide for the use of gamma interferon tests, that is more s,effective to find positive animals and, as reported by the IZS del Mezzogiorno, at lack of biosecurity of the farms present in some area of the Province of Caserta.

1.3 Epidemiological maps for infection and other relevant data on the disease/activities (information on serotypes involved,...) (Please attach files of data using the PDF attachment feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.

ANNEX 1, Ministerial Ordinance 28 May 2015;
ANNEX 2, Guide lines of the Ministry of health;
ANNEX 3, Maps of Italy;
ANNEX 4/5, data 2018 and 2019;

In the ANNEX 3:

- is possible to see in green the territories OTbF, in yellow the territories at zero prevalence and in some case ready for an official ratification by a Commission's decision. Is possible to note in that in biggest part of Italy the disease is not present. Only the Sicily have not provinces OTbF or with zero prevalence.
- is presented the trend of reduction of the prevalence and incidence calculated on all herds of the territories OTBF and not OBTBF.
- the table show the percentage of control of the animals in the territories not OTBF.

1.4 Additional epidemiological information (on epidemiological inquiries, abortions, lesions found in abattoir, human cases, etc...)

In ANNEX 6 the report of the lesion found in slaughterhouse and the distribution of outbreaks in Italy.

2. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ON RUMINANT DISEASES PROGRAMMES

VERY IMPORTANT: Please fill out the following tables with figures corresponding to measures performed during the implementing period (1/1 to 31/12).

Table A - DATA ON HERDS

Region	Animal species	Total number of herds	Total number of herds under the programme	Number of herds to be checked under the programme this year	Number of herds checked	Number of positive herds	Number of new positive herds	Number of herds depopulated
		% of positive herds depopulated	% of herds coverage		% of positive herds Period herd prevalence		% of positive herds Herd incidence	
Basilicata	Cattle	2,558	2,442	2,442	2,442	4	3	0
		0 %	100 %		0.16 %		0.12 %	
Calabria	Cattle	6,806	5,330	5,330	5,172	18	12	0
		0 %	97.04 %		0.35 %		0.23 %	
Campania	Cattle	8,851	6,149	6,149	6,149	48	25	3
		6.25 %	100 %		0.78 %		0.41 %	
Lazio	Cattle and Buffalo	3,037	2,226	1,113	1,113	1	0	0
		0 %	100 %		0.09 %		0 %	
Marche	Cattle	885	517	517	517	6	5	1
		16.67 %	100 %		1.16 %		0.97 %	
Molise	Cattle	2,274	1,408	1,408	1,404	0	0	0
		%	99.72 %		0 %		0 %	
Puglia	Cattle and Buffalo	3,868	3,786	3,786	3,786	9	6	1
		11.11 %	100 %		0.24 %		0.16 %	
Sardegna	Cattle	7,986	7,623	2,541	2,275	0	0	0
		%	89.53 %		0 %		0 %	
Sicilia	Cattle	9,573	9,304	9,304	9,304	140	126	5
		3.57 %	100 %		1.5 %		1.35 %	
Campania	Buffalo	1,133	1,116	1,116	1,116	103	70	13
		12.62 %	100 %		9.23 %		6.27 %	
Total		46,971	39,901	33,706	33,278	329	247	23
		6.99 %	98.73 %		0.99 %		0.74 %	

Table B - DATA ON ANIMALS

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Region	Animal species	Total number of animals	Number of animals under the programme	Number of animals to be tested under the programme this year	Number of animals tested	Number of animals tested individually	Number of positive animals	Number of animals with positive result slaughtered or culled	Number of animals slaughtered
		% coverage at animals level				% positive animals Animal Prevalence			
Basilicata	Cattle	106,088	92,997	92,997	92,997	92,997	3	3	3
		100 %				0 %			
Calabria	Cattle	129,081	107,676	107,676	106,821	106,821	156	153	153
		99.21 %				0.15 %			
Campania	Cattle	179,349	143,694	143,694	143,586	143,586	190	190	250
		99.92 %				0.13 %			
Lazio	Cattle and Buffalo	153,087	144,423	73,018	73,018	73,018	2	2	2
		100 %				0 %			
Marche	Cattle	19,170	16,576	16,576	16,576	16,576	4	4	11
		100 %				0.02 %			
Molise	Cattle	42,007	34,112	34,112	34,084	34,084	0	0	0
		99.92 %				0 %			
Puglia	Cattle and Buffalo	196,447	168,748	168,748	168,748	168,748	126	126	469
		100 %				0.07 %			
Sardegna	Cattle	262,519	191,245	67,626	38,641	38,641	0	0	0
		57.14 %				0 %			
Sicilia	Cattle	389,190	344,393	344,393	344,393	344,393	1,232	1,223	1,736
		100 %				0.36 %			
Campania	Buffalo	317,967	301,032	301,032	301,032	301,032	3,773	3,773	5,220
		100 %				1.25 %			
Total		1,794,905	1,544,896	1,349,872	1,319,896	1,319,896	5,486	5,474	7,844
		97.78 %				0.42 %			

Table C - DATA ON VACCINATION PROGRAMMES

Region	Animal species	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination programme this year	Number of herds vaccinated	Number of animals vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine administered	Number of adults vaccinated	Number of young animals vaccinated	Number of animals with primary vaccination (initial+ booster)
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table D - DATA ON STATUS OF HERDS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD

	Region	Animal species	Total number of herds and animals under the programme	Unknown	Not free or not officially free from disease		Free of officially free-disease status suspended/ withdrawn	Free from disease	Officially free from disease
					Last check positive	Last check negative			
herds	Basilicata	Cattle	2,442	0	0	2	0	0	2,440
animals	"	"	92,997	0	0	39	0	0	92,958
herds	Calabria	Cattle	5,217	0	2	23	21	0	5,171
animals	"	"	106,966	0	253	2,002	246	0	104,465
herds	Campania	Cattle	6,057	0	27	15	22	0	5,993
animals	"	"	143,368	0	835	327	428	0	141,778
herds	Lazio	Cattle and Buffalo	2,404	7	1	5	8	0	2,383
animals	"	"	144,423	57	1	300	403	0	143,662
herds	Marche	Cattle	517	0	4	2	1	0	510
animals	"	"	16,576	0	67	1	0	0	16,508
herds	Molise	Cattle	1,392	0	0	0	0	0	1,392

animals	"	"	34,018	0	0	0	0	0	34,018
herds	Puglia	Cattle and Buffalo	3,786	0	0	20	0	0	3,786
animals	"	"	169,234	0	0	1,490	0	0	167,744
herds	Sardegna	Cattle	7,604	0	0	0	0	0	7,604
animals	"	"	171,671	0	0	0	0	0	171,671
herds	Sicilia	Cattle	8,956	1	23	97	48	0	8,787
animals	"	"	341,693	11	2,091	5,623	1,494	0	332,474
herds	Campania	Buffalo	1,094	0	83	8	23	0	980
animals	"	"	298,662	0	29,601	2,892	12,348	0	253,821
Total - herds			39,469	8	140	172	123	0	39,026
Total - animals			1,519,608	68	32,848	12,674	14,919	0	1,459,099

Table E - SUSPENSION/WITHDRAWAL OF THE FREE OR OFFICIALLY FREE STATUS

Region	Animal species	Status	Reason	Number of herds
Calabria	Cattle	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	18
Calabria	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	4
Calabria	Cattle	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	3
Campania	Cattle	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	5
Campania	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	15
Lazio	Cattle and Buffalo	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	8
Marche	Cattle	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	1
Molise	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	1
Sardegna	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	1
Sicilia	Cattle	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	54
Sicilia	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	33
Campania	Buffalo	Suspended	The disease is suspected	22
Total				165

Table F - STRATIFIED DATA ON SURVEILLANCE AND LABORATORY TESTS

Region	Animal species	Test type	Number of samples	Number of tests	Number of positive tests
Basilicata	Cattle	Tuberculin test	0	93,439	3
Calabria	Cattle	Tuberculin test	0	124,485	155
Campania	Cattle	Tuberculin test	0	144,967	190
Lazio	Cattle and Buffalo	Tuberculin test	0	84,139	2
Marche	Cattle	Tuberculin test	0	16,576	3
Molise	Cattle	Tuberculin test	0	34,084	0
Puglia	Cattle and Buffalo	Tuberculin test	0	191,857	124
Sardegna	Cattle	Tuberculin test	0	63,453	0
Sicilia	Cattle	Tuberculin test	0	384,855	1,232
Campania	Buffalo	Tuberculin test	0	308,466	6,744
Basilicata	Cattle	Bacteriological test	3	3	1
Calabria	Cattle	Bacteriological test	221	221	21
Campania	Cattle	Bacteriological test	868	868	16
Marche	Cattle	Bacteriological test	47	47	9
Sicilia	Cattle	Bacteriological test	131	131	32
Campania	Buffalo	Bacteriological test	6,382	6,382	21
Campania	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	3	3	0
Molise	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	60	60	0
Puglia	Cattle and Buffalo	Gamma-interferon test	371	371	160
Sicilia	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	66	66	16
Campania	Buffalo	Gamma-interferon test	5,083	5,083	775

Calabria	Cattle	PCR test	0	7	0
Campania	Cattle	PCR test	0	330	38
Marche	Cattle	PCR test	0	44	12
Sicilia	Cattle	PCR test	0	44	18
Campania	Buffalo	PCR test	0	9,989	96
Total			13,235	1,469,970	9,668
			Methods of laboratory analysis	Total number of tests	
			Total - Bacteriological test	7,652	
			Total - Gamma-interferon test	5,583	
			Total - PCR test	10,414	
			Total - Tuberculin test	1,446,321	

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION