



Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
*Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality*



Bluetongue

Paul Leijs DVM MBA
Senior Consultant
Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority

14 September 2023



Bluetongue notification

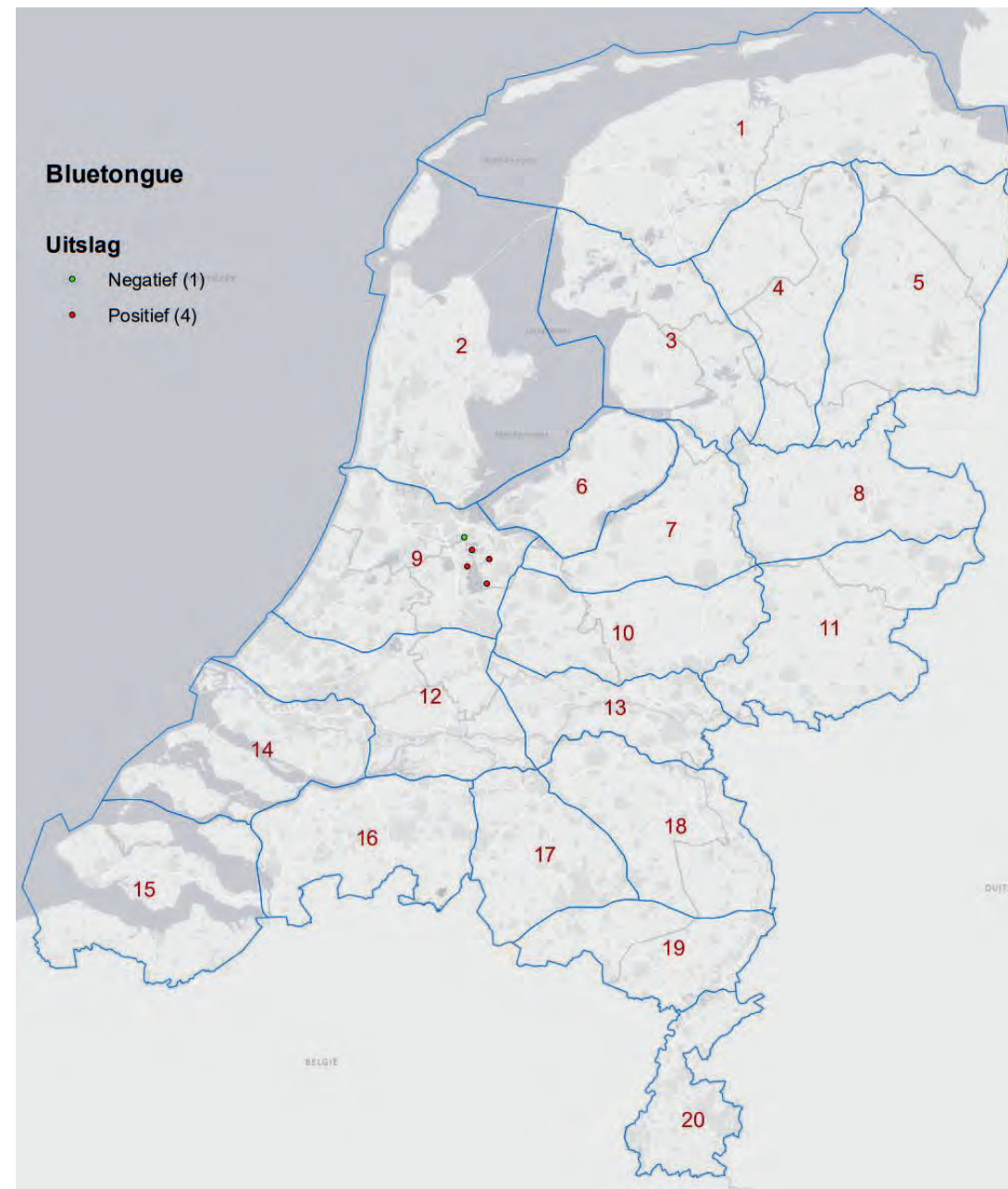
Since 2012 the Netherlands had a BTV (8) free status

- > On the 3rd and 4th of September notifications of multiple suspicious cases of BTV done by two different vet practices and involving five different sheep farmers.
- > Clinical signs that were seen:
 - Fever,
 - Swollen tongue,
 - Not eating
 - Drooling
 - Lethargic to moribund



Bluetongue notification

- > 4th September Competent Authority executed clinical inspection and sampled the animals on all these farms
- > Samples were sent and examined at the national reference laboratory (WBVR)
- > 5th September confirmation of BTV on 4 of the 5 farms
- > Samples have been sent to the EU reference laboratory of Spain to determine the type of the virus





Measures

- › Blocking of farms where the BTV is found
- › Where necessary and useful insect repellent measures on the infected farms,
- › Epidemiological surveys on the infected farms and possibly further surveys in the surrounding area.
- › The certification of live ruminants and the live products of ruminants will be changed according to the legislation.
- › To arrange this properly and coordinated with other Member States, these animals and live products will not be certified for the next two days. Furthermore, border grazing with Belgium (in a Benelux context) will also be stopped.
- › Animals that were already in quarantine for export are canceled
- › Producers of germinal products will be investigated if they can continue certification.



Development

- > 6th September 13 new suspicious cases of BTV including one cow with symptoms
- > 8th September now a total of 19 infected farms with BTV
 - Total amount of positive sheep 13
 - Total amount of bovine 3 and 18 suspicious cases





Development

12 September

› 29 infected locations

– 20 sheep

– 9 bovine

34 suspicious cases

Uitslag

• Negatief (3)

○ Positief (29)

● Volgt (34)

□ Regio's





Investigations

- > Beside blood samples tests for antibody research there will also be an investigation of antibody occurrence in bulk milk samples from sheep and goats. The outcome of this investigation must be adjusted for the vaccinated farms but they can give inside information about the spread of the virus.
- > Stored samples will be tested to give retrospective insight information.
- > Protocols are made for vector protected premisses.
- > The deployment of midge repellents for use on animals, animal enclosures and/or means of transport requires consultation
- > There is an epidemiological investigation going on to find the source is of this virus.



Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
*Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality*



Questions ?