



NATIONAL SANITARY VETERINARY AND FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (NSVFSA)

BLUETONGUE IN ROMANIA

SEPTEMBER 2014



BLUETONGUE IN ROMANIA

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2014

- **Background**
- **Current situation**
- **Measure enforced**
- **Future approach**

Background (1)

- BTV never occurred in Romania
- The serological surveillance was enforced since 2000
- The entomological surveillance was enforced since 2005 . There were identified the vectors belonging to *C. obsoletus*, *C. pulicaris* complexes and *C. nubeculosus* species
- The vector free period usually starts in November and lasts by the end of April

Background (2)

- In september 2008 a part of Romanian territory was involved in the surveillance zone due to an outbreak of bluetongue (BTV 8) that occurred on the Hungarian territory
- In April 2009 Romania reported the results of the monitoring actions carried out in the surveillance area for bluetongue and asked for the lifting of the restriction measures

Current situation (1)

Actions taken for prevention of introducing the BT in Romania in the context of the evolution of disease within the Greece and Bulgarian territory - (before the first outbreak occurrence)

- Sending the daily alerts to all counties for informing and alarming;
- Instructions sent to all counties for informing and enhancing the surveillance and the movement control measures;
- Risk analysis on 05.08.2014 concerning the risk factors of BTV₄ for Romania and measures to be applied, posted on NSVFSA site for public information;

Current situation (2)

Actions taken for prevention of introducing the BT in Romania in the context of the evolution of disease within the Greece and Bulgarian territory - (before the first outbreak occurrence)

- On 07.08.2014 meeting of the National Experts Group for BT;
- Instructions sent to all counties with measures to be urgently implemented;
- Cooperation with the General Inspectorate of the Border Police for helping the veterinary services in checking the desinsections of the consignments provided from restricted areas of Bulgaria/Greece territory

Current situation (3)

The first outbreak

- First cases occurred in bovine animals, in South-East of Romania, at altitude 1000 meters
- The County Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate Buzau (CSVFSD) was announced about a suspicion of BTV in one holding, in the morning of 21.08.2014, by the empowered veterinarian;
- A team of epidemiologist from local authority went to the place of suspicion, inspected the animals which showed clinical signs (mouth, udder and foot lesions), sampled two animals and then send those samples to the Local Sanitary Veterinary Laboratory;

Current situation (4)

The first outbreak

- The animals have shown signs of disease since 14-th of august, and treated for other reasons, but, in the end, they were suspected by BT.
- During the same day, 21.08.2014, other 15-th cases of suspected backyards were notified to local veterinary office;
- animals were sampled and also sent to Local Sanitary Veterinary Laboratory for analyzing by serology, through ELISA;
- In 22.08.2014, all samples tested were positive to ELISA test

Current situation (5)

The first outbreak

- The samples were sent in 22.08.2014 for confirmation to the National Reference Laboratory – Institute for Diagnostic and Animal Health – to be tested for virus genome identification by Real Time RT-PCR;
- The disease was confirmed in all those 16-th backyard (22 animals) in 23-th of August 2014;
- An epidemiological investigation has been performed and the findings were that the primary outbreak might be considered a holding from locality Sarulesti; the presumptive date of infection was established to be 10-11th of August, 2014



First outbreak

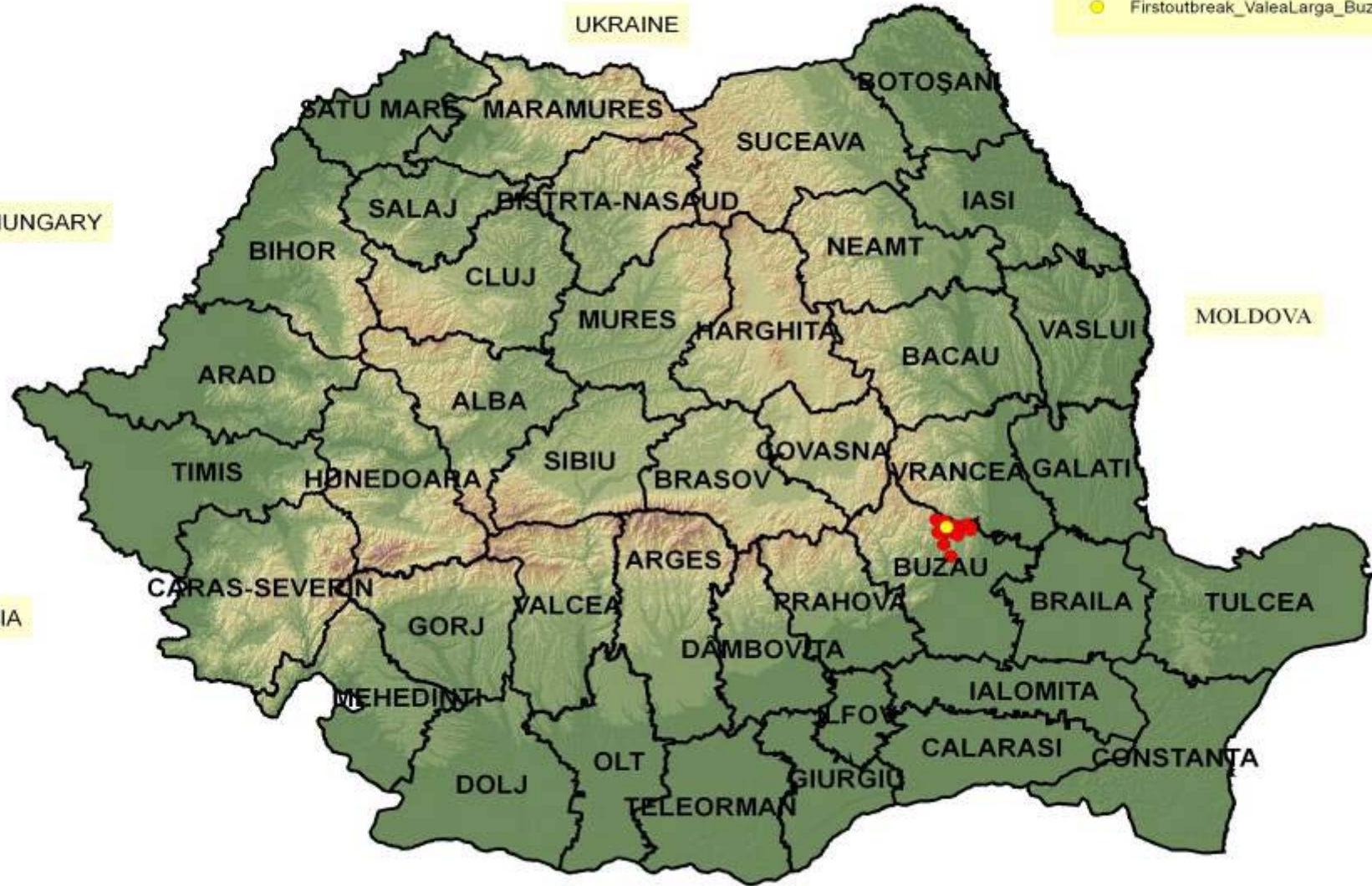
ROMANIA

Legend

▭ judete

● Bluetongue outbreaks 23.08.2014

● Firstoutbreak_ValeaLarga_Buzau



100,000 50,000 0 100,000 Meters

BULGARIA

Clinical signs

- Clinical signs: hyperthermia, hyperemia, congestion and erosions of the skin and mucosae, especially oral mucosa; salivation, epiphora, nasal discharge;
- Blood samples were sent to EURL for bluetongue at Pirbright on 27.08.2014;
- The BTV serotype identified BTV 4 (confirmed by the Pirbright Reference Laboratory on 01.09.2014);
- The affected animals are cattle and sheep.

Images



Evolution of cases – as for September 8th, 2014

No.	County	No of outbreaks	No of cases	No. of dead animals		No of culled animals
				Cattle	Sheep	
1	Buzau	69	102	2	2	2
2	Prahova	18	60	3	17	1
3	Vrancea	15	47	0	6	0
4	Arges	5	9	0	0	0
5	Valcea	24	46	0	0	0
6	Gorj	16	30	1	0	0
7	Ilfov	3	3	0	0	0
8	Olt	10	62	0	0	0
9	Bacau	4	35	0	3	0
10	Dolj	5	6	1	0	0
11	Botosani	1	1	0	0	0
12	Vaslui	3	8	0	0	0
13	Dambovita	2	26	0	12	0
14	Mehedinti	5	7	0	0	0
15	Giurgiu	1	1	0	0	0
16	Ialomita	2	3	0	0	0
17	Braila	1	1	0	0	0
	Total	184	447	7	40	3 cattle



Distribution of outbreaks

BT outbreaks RO 05.09.2014

□ <județe>

● BT_outbreaks_05092014

Hungary

Ukraine

Moldova

Ukraine

Serbia

Marea Neagra

BULGARIA

94,000 47,000 0 94,000 Meters



Measures enforced (1)

The measures were set according to the relevant legislation provisions (the Council Directive 2000/75/EC and the EC Reg. 1266/2007) and the opinion of the National Experts Group for bluetongue:

- demarcation of the restricted zones (20, 100 and 150 km restriction zones around outbreaks) taking into account the natural barrier of the Carpathian Mountains and the wind direction according to the data received from the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (see map);
- ban of movement of all susceptible ruminant animals according to the legislation in force;
- closing the markets and fairs until the October 5th, 2014 on the entire Romanian territory.

Restricted zones



- BT outbreaks RO 05.09.2014
- ▭ <județe>
 - BT_outbreaks_05092014
 - ▭ 20_km_buffer_BT_05092014
 - ▭ 100_km_buffer_BT_05092014
 - ▭ 150_km_buffer_BT_05092014

Natural barrier of Carpathian Mountains (over 1700 meters)

Hungary

Ukraine

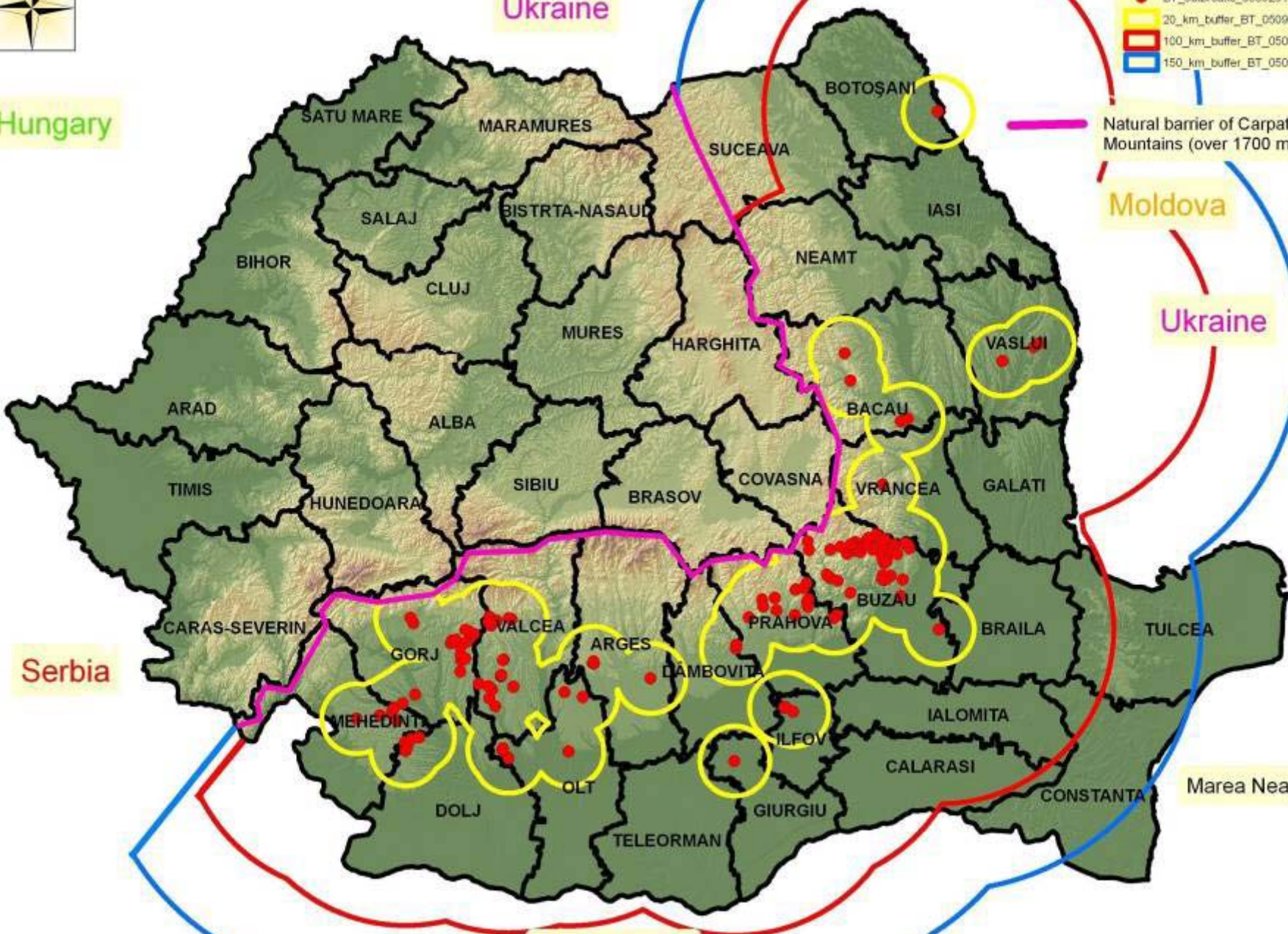
Moldova

Ukraine

Serbia

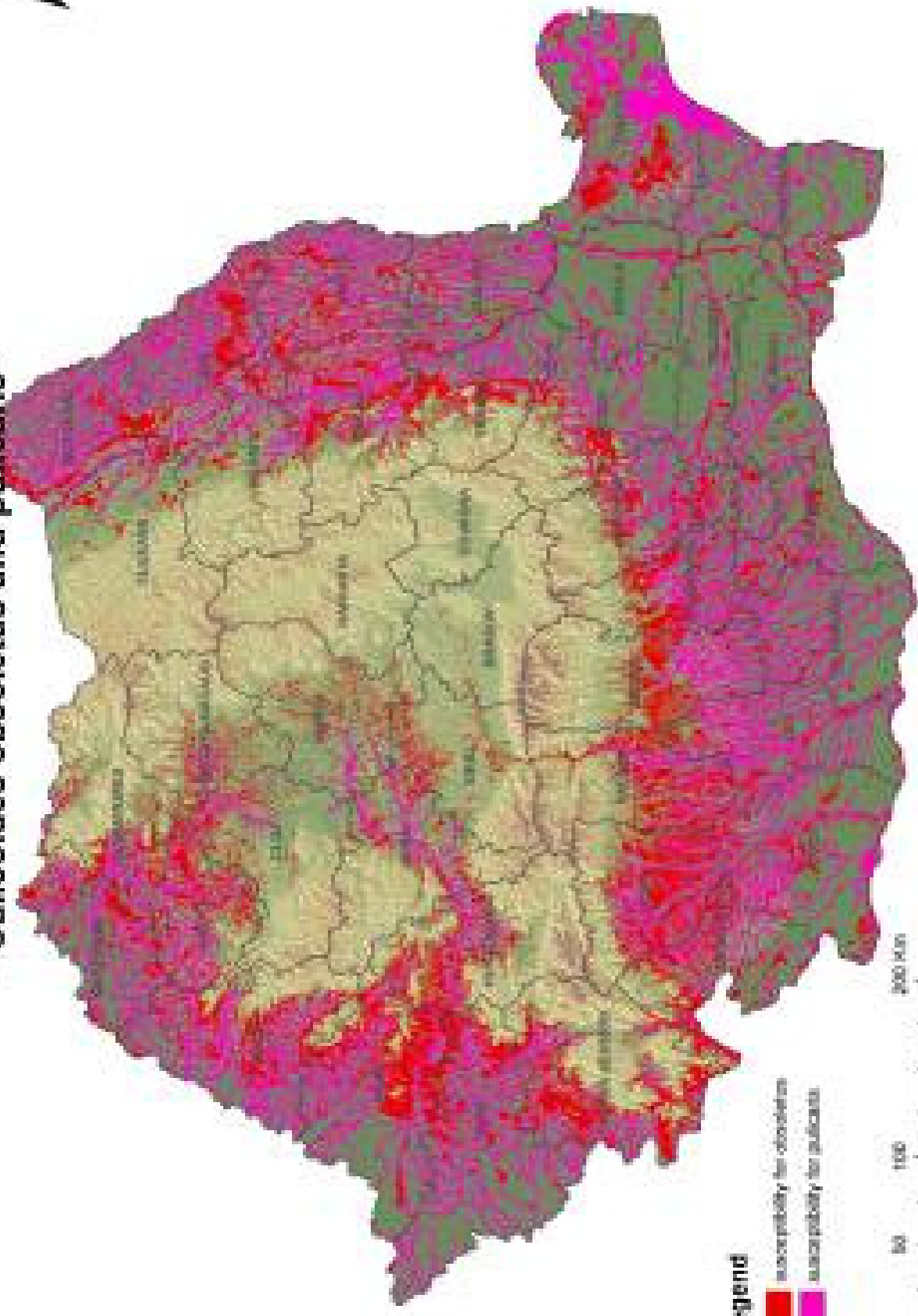
Marea Neagra

BULGARIA



SUSCETIBILITY AREAS FOR BLUETONGUE

- *Culicoides obsoletus* and *pulicaris* -



Measures enforced (2)

- the movement of susceptible animals from the restricted zones is made according to the EC Reg. 1266/2007 and the national legislation in force
- the suspicious holding are placed under sanitary veterinary surveillance;
- census of susceptible animals;
- clinical inspections of holdings with susceptible animals, performed by the official veterinarian;
- recommended the destroying the favorable biotopes for culicoides and treatments with insecticides and repellents;
- passive and active surveillance (sampling for serological and virological testing for BT);

Measures enforced (3)

- entomological surveillance (collection and counting of culicoides);
- according to the Surveillance programme for 2014, the entomological activities were reduced, being closely to the minimum requirements foreseen in Reg. 1266/2007;
- weekly catches on april and november; monthly catches on winter months;
- following the bluetongue situation in Bulgaria, the entomological surveillance was intensified with monthly catches by means of fixed traps in all counties, and weekly catches by means of mobile traps in restricted zones, as result of disease outbreak in our country;
- most of the counties reported, so far, culicoid vectors in their traps: *C. obsoletus*, *C. pulicaris* and *C. nubeculosus*. - - the number of culicoids trapped was low, but more catches are needed in order to draw a conclusion on vector abundance, at least at the trap location;

Measures enforced (4)

- warning campaigns for farmers and large public;
- symptomatic treatment of affected animals;
- the measure of killing of affected animals is not applied;
- all outbreaks are accordingly notified to European Commission, and to OIE.

Measures enforced (5)

- In the counties situated outside of restricted zones are performed:
 - passive surveillance;
 - active serological surveillance according to provisions of Reg. (EC) 1266/2007;
 - entomological surveillance by monthly catches;
 - control of animals movement according to Reg. (EC) 1266/2007 provisions.

As a result, no cases of BT were recorded in the counties from outside of restricted zones.

Future approach

- NSVFSA Scientific Council took place in September 3, 2014 for analyzing the BTV situation in Romania and for discussing the actions to be implemented in the future;
- They concluded that the occurrence of the new outbreaks could be possible in the next period;
- As an eradication measure – the vaccination of all susceptible animals from Romanian territory could be take into consideration for the next spring;
- The BTV vaccination for the commercial cattle farms could be applied even this year, voluntary as requested of professional farmers.