

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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ID: 20200501-1FRRLV6K

Country code: PT

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 bovine tuberculosis eradication programme (BTEP) carried out in 2019 for the non-officially free region of Portugal (4 regions of the mainland area and the Autonomous Region of Açores) resulted in a stability of the epidemiological indicators.

In the Mainland:

Herd tuberculosis prevalence (herds with at least one positive animal to CITT) was 0,44%. Graph 1 (in annex) presents the evolution of the number of positive herds and animals from 2013 to 2019, while Graph 2 presents the prevalence in herds and animals over time.

The herd incidence was 0,34% in 2019. The graph 3 (in annex) shows that the majority of positive herds identified each year are new positive herds.

In 2019 the percentage of positive animals was 0.07%.

In the Autonomous Region of Açores:

Evolution of bovine tuberculosis tested and infected herds in the islands of Azores is presented in Graph 4 of the annex. In 2019 a total of 2092 herds were tested and in 18 herd animals were found positive.

In the Autonomous Region of Madeira

It was not possible to implement in 2019 all the actions foreseen in the programme for the autonomous region of Madeira, so that a representative view of the real situation in that autonomous region could be shown.

For that reason, we decided not to consider the developed actions in this report, namely for reimbursement purposes.

Regarding the technical implementation of the programme:

In the Mainland:

The BTEP was implemented as foreseen, reaching a coverage of 97,87%.

There were 119 positive herds and 91 were new positive (76,4%). Infection was confirmed by bacteriology in 103 herds out of 131 herds investigated (78,6%).

In the Autonomous Region of Açores:

The BTEP was implemented as foreseen, reaching a coverage of 99.38%.

There were in 18 positive herds and 16 were new positive (88,9%). Infection was confirmed by bacteriology in 7 herds out of 23 investigated (30,4%).

At the present time, eight of nine islands are bovine tuberculosis officially free (Commission Implementing Decision of 20.4.2020, amending Annexes I and II to Decision 2003/467/EC), remaining only S. Miguel island in BTEP

The implementation of BTEP is very important regarding the advantages of the eradication not only due to the positive impact of the safety of products of animal origin but also on the market position of the national herds. The programme is advancing and in a pre-eradication phase.

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

In the Mainland:

Although we have not made progress in our prevalence and incidence, maintaining regional differences, some considerations are relevant to understand the evolution of the programme:

- In some regions like LVT, with a reduced universe of herds, any small increase in positivity translates into a significant increase in the prevalence of the disease. In fact, in this whole region there were 9 more positive herds in 2019 than in 2018, resulting in variation of the prevalence from 0,13% to 0,79%.
- When we analyse in detail the herds with positive bacteriology during the year the vast majority (70,87%) are located in the two areas of Portugal (Centro and Alentejo) with higher density of wild animals, deer and wild boars, that represent a relevant source for tuberculosis infection. The same is true for animals that showed positive bacteriology (83,11% - 19,18% C+ 63,93% ALT).
- The same reality can be seen when we analyse the distribution of T2.1 holding (infected herds at the end of the reporting period) that 25.68% are located in the Centro while 58.11% are located in the Alentejo.
- This year more animals were tested helping to accelerate the pre-eradication phase.

All positive animals are subjected to sanitary slaughter and those coming from newly infected herds were subjected to organ collection for bacteriology. The percentage of slaughtered animals sampled with isolation of *M. bovis* was 57,8% (219/379).

The main reasons for attributing a suspended status for tuberculosis are: delays in regular sampling (62%), followed by non-negative tests (17%) and detected irregularities on animal movement (14%). Tuberculosis suspicion only accounts for 7% of the suspensions of officially free status.

At the 31st December, 95 herds had a non-officially free status representing 33,4%.

In the Autonomous Region of Açores:

The herd apparent prevalence of BTEP implemented in 2019 is of 0.86%.

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.

In the Mainland:

The geographical distribution of infected herds (T2.1) is presented in Annex.

By the end of 2019, the areas with higher number of infected herds were those in the interior of the country where the interface with wild animals is relevant.

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

The Regional Services (DSAVR) are responsible for the epidemiological evaluation of herds with positive results to the diagnostic tests or herds with bacteriological isolation of *M. bovis*. For this evaluation, a specific data collection questionnaire is used (epidemiological enquiry (EI) Model 758).

During 2019 there were 107 epidemiological inquiries carried out of newly infected herds. Contact with wild animals is confirmed as an important source of tuberculosis, followed by the introduction of animals in the holdings.

A tuberculosis surveillance plan for large game animals is in place in the risk area of the country (interior of Centro and Alentejo regions). This plan includes the following measures:

- In all big game hunting activities, a veterinarian is present.
- All hunted animals are submitted to an initial examination, made by the veterinarian, to ensure food security and the protection of hunters and personnel involved in these activities.
- Reinforcement of correct destination of the by-products of hunting.

- Collection of samples for laboratory diagnosis (histopathological and bacteriological examination) of any suspected lesions of tuberculosis is carried out.

Results obtained in the last years indicate that in 39% of the hunting acts, suspected lesions were found and in 28% of the hunting acts, tuberculosis confirmation is achieved. This represents 4, 6% of positives in hunter deer and 4, 8% of positive hunter wild boars.

Regarding the lesions found in abattoir (surveillance data), from 379.035 animals slaughtered 82 were suspected of tuberculosis.

Compulsory pre-movement testing has been applied to avoid the entrance of infected bovine in T3 herds, with the following data registered in 2019 for the continent:

- 44 814 holdings / 28 7103 animals.

Human cases: according to information provided by DGS (Health Human Services) there is no available information on identification of isolates of Mycobacterium bovis on human cases.

In the Autonomous Region of Açores:

In 2019, six epidemiological inquiries were done: one concluded that the reason of the infection was the introduction of animals from one infected herd, other concluded that it was due to direct contact with animals from other herds, and four were inconclusive.

There were four slaughter suspicions, all negative to mycobacterial test.

Lesions found in abattoir (surveillance data):

A total of 49 animals were slaughtered (43 testing positive in tuberculin and 6 cohabitants). From those 49 bovines, only 10 had compatible lesions with tuberculosis in post-mortem inspection and 15 were positive on microbiological test.

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	
DSAVRN	Cattle	16,337	15,821	15,527	15,144	18	15	3
		16.67 %	97.53 %		0.12 %		0.1 %	
DSAVRC	Cattle	6,529	6,271	5,751	5,687	25	21	2
		8 %	98.89 %		0.44 %		0.37 %	
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	1,839	1,719	1,498	1,399	11	11	1
		9.09 %	93.39 %		0.79 %		0.79 %	
DSAVRALT	Cattle	4,700	4,661	4,637	4,598	65	44	0
		0 %	99.16 %		1.41 %		0.96 %	
RAA	Cattle	6,338	6,338	2,105	2,092	18	16	0
		0 %	99.38 %		0.86 %		0.76 %	
Total		35,743	34,810	29,518	28,920	137	107	6
		4.38 %	97.97 %		0.47 %		0.37 %	

Table B - DATA ON ANIMALS

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			
DSAVRN	Cattle	301,950	299,221	205,743	193,133	193,133	38	38	67
		93.87 %				0.02 %			

DSAVRC	Cattle	153,201	150,730	128,264	126,782	126,782	168	135	143	
						98.84 %				0.13 %
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	185,709	179,577	102,037	89,091	89,091	25	25	26	
						87.31 %				0.03 %
DSAVRALT	Cattle	693,234	684,785	668,597	651,946	651,946	506	467	501	
						97.51 %				0.08 %
RAA	Cattle	275,913	275,913	86,190	83,141	83,141	43	43	49	
						96.46 %				0.05 %
Total		1,610,007	1,590,226	1,190,831	1,144,093	1,144,093	780	708	786	
						96.08 %				0.07 %

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	DSAVRN	Cattle	15,821	0	0	10	35	0	16,292
animals	"	"	299,221	0	0	221	541	0	298,459
herds	DSAVRC	Cattle	6,271	0	11	10	35	0	6,473
animals	"	"	150,730	0	2,078	2,411	1,199	0	145,042
herds	DSAVRLVT	Cattle	1,719	0	2	3	29	0	1,805
animals	"	"	179,577	0	125	284	335	0	178,833
herds	DSAVRALT	Cattle	4,661	0	11	48	17	0	4,624
animals	"	"	684,785	0	4,381	12,956	2,926	0	664,522
herds	RAA	Cattle	6,338	0	2	6	22	0	6,308
animals	"	"	275,913	0	369	992	3,886	0	80,943
Total - herds			34,810	0	26	77	138	0	35,502
Total - animals			1,590,226	0	6,953	16,864	8,887	0	1,367,799

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

Region	Animal species	Status	Reason	Number of herds
DSAVRN	Cattle	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	5
DSAVRN	Cattle	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	26
DSAVRN	Cattle	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	2
DSAVRN	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	2
DSAVRC	Cattle	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	6
DSAVRC	Cattle	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	17
DSAVRC	Cattle	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	7
DSAVRC	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	4
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	0
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	22
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	7
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	0
DSAVRALT	Cattle	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	9

DSAVRALT	Cattle	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	6
DSAVRALT	Cattle	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	0
DSAVRALT	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	2
RAA	Cattle	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	19
RAA	Cattle	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	0
RAA	Cattle	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	1
RAA	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	3
Total				138

Table F - STRATIFIED DATA ON SURVEILLANCE AND LABORATORY TESTS

Region	Animal species	Test type	Number of samples	Number of tests	Number of positive tests
DSAVRN	Cattle	Tuberculin test	205,388	205,388	38
DSAVRN	Cattle	PCR test	26	26	26
DSAVRN	Cattle	Bacteriological test	46	46	26
DSAVRN	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	0	0	0
DSAVRC	Cattle	Tuberculin test	139,327	139,327	138
DSAVRC	Cattle	PCR test	42	42	42
DSAVRC	Cattle	Bacteriological test	65	65	42
DSAVRC	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	0	0	0
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	Tuberculin test	100,650	100,650	25
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	PCR test	11	11	11
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	Bacteriological test	23	23	11
DSAVRLVT	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	0	0	0
DSAVRALT	Cattle	Tuberculin test	798,754	798,754	506
DSAVRALT	Cattle	PCR test	140	140	140
DSAVRALT	Cattle	Bacteriological test	245	245	140
DSAVRALT	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	0	0	0
RAA	Cattle	Tuberculin test	89,315	89,315	43
RAA	Cattle	PCR test	9	9	9
RAA	Cattle	Bacteriological test	47	47	9
RAA	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	0	0	0
Total			1,334,088	1,334,088	1,206
			Methods of laboratory analysis	Total number of tests	
			Total - Bacteriological test	426	
			Total - Gamma-interferon test	0	
			Total - PCR test	228	
			Total - Tuberculin test	1,333,434	

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

This Claim :

- Did not include pre-movement tests carried out for intra-Union trade;
- Deducted salvage value at Compensation item: