

Application from the Autonomous Region of the Aosta Valley to declare the territory free, pursuant to article 10 of Directive 64/432/EC, from one of the infectious diseases listed in Annexe E (II) of the same Directive, “infectious bovine rhinotracheitis”.



Introduction

- Aosta Valley is the smallest region in Italy; in its northwest, it is located between France and Switzerland. At its core are its majestic peaks (the region is, after all, mostly mountainous). Here we can find the highest peaks in the Alps: Cervino, Monte Rosa, Gran Paradiso and the king of them all, Mont Blanc, which at 15,781 feet is the highest mountain in Europe, the roof of the old Continent.



- Valle d'Aosta has an area of 3,263 km² and a population of about 128.298. The administrative capital is Aosta. The economy is based on sectors of tourism, agriculture, forest and pasture, metallurgical and tertiary.
- In the high mountain pastures is made the Aosta Valley's Protected Designation of Origin cheese «Fontina».



Animal health situation

Aosta Valley Region has been declared officially free of :

- enzootic – bovine – leukosis (LBE) in Decision 2003/467/EC;
- brucellosis (sheep and goat) in Decision 2011/277/EC;
- bovine brucellosis in Decision 2012/204/EC;



Number of farms

SPECIES	YEAR		
	2012	2013	2014
Cattles	1204	1171	1145
Sheeps	248	249	260
Goats	423	417	418
Horses	347	352	360
Pigs	28	28	18
Poultry	34	27	34
Apiaries	359	367	400



SPECIES	Less than 10 heads	FARMS WITH		
		Between 10 and 30 heads	Between 30 and 50 heads	More than 50 heads
Cattles	384	330	195	236
Sheeps	189	57	7	7
Goats	260	113	31	14



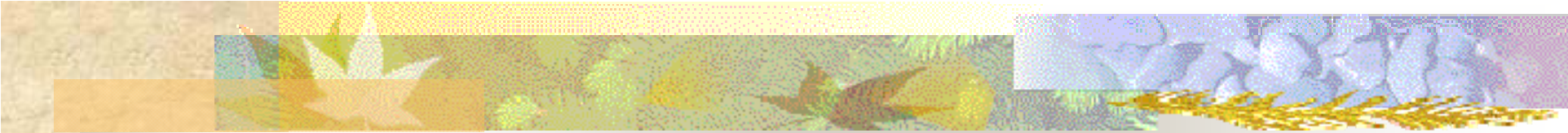
Eradication plan of the disease infectious bovine rhinotracheitis

- Since 2003, the Region has implemented a specific serological monitoring plan (Regional Council Resolution n. 1148 of 31/03/2003 and subsequent additions and amendments) on a yearly basis and has launched an appropriate vaccination campaign based on the use of marker vaccines (only animals aged >12 months were tested).



- These measures have continuously improved the situation, drastically reducing the percentage of positive animals from 17.25% in 2005 to 4.5% in 2011, with a similar reduction in prevalence for herds, from 44.57% to 23%. With an excellent situation, all things considered, it was therefore clear that the natural consequence of the activity carried out until then was the adoption of an eradication plan, with the aim of attaining total eradication of the disease throughout the whole regional territory.



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- The use of marker vaccines was stopped starting from June 2011 and then prohibited by regional law n. 4/2012, without prejudice to the possibility to use them in certain situations to be decided on by the veterinary service, but which never happened.



- The Regional Law n. 4 of 13 February 2012 on “Provisions for eradicating the viral disease infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (BHV-1) in the Region”, which regulates the regional programme aimed at eliminating the pathogen responsible for the viral disease named infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (BHV-1) from the regional territory and the conditions for the granting and maintenance of BHV-1 virus-free farm health status.



- The European Commission approved the eradication plan of the disease infectious bovine rhinotracheitis submitted by the Aosta Valley Region, with Decision 2014/90/EC of 14 February 2014, including it in Annexe I of the same Decision, which amends Annexe I of Decision 2004/558/EC.



- The implementation of the aforesaid regional law no. 4 of 13 February 2012 came into force in spring 2012 and continued into the second half of 2012 with health monitoring of 1102 farms.

YEAR	Farms monitored	Positive animals	Positive farms	New positive farms	Prevalence (% positive farms)	Incidence (% new positive farms)
2012	1102	372	95	2	8.62	0.18

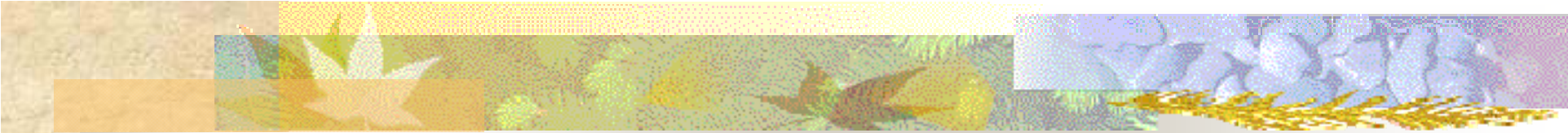
- At the end of 2012, 1031 stalls were declared “BHV-1 virus-free”.



- In the first six months of 2013, the health campaign concerned all active breeding or production holdings present in the region, the number of which had decreased with respect to 2012, with 1033 farms, and 14 cases of positive animals were observed, which were destroyed.

YEAR	Farms monitored	Positive animals	Positive farms	New positive farms	Prevalence (% positive farms)	Incidence (% new positive farms)
2013	1033	14	22	8	2.13	0.77



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- No other positive animals were found during subsequent testing performed on the farms where those animals had lived.
 - At 31/12/2013, all the farms had attained a disease-free status for BHV-1 virus.



- In the first six months of 2014, the health campaign concerned all active breeding or production farms present in the region, equal to 1029 farms, and 2 cases of positive animals were observed, which were destroyed, on a total of 2 farms; no other animals tested positive during subsequent testing performed on the farms where those animals lived.



- These positive cases are not accounted for when calculating prevalence and incidence pursuant to Regional Law n. 4/2012, which is why the percentages are 0.0%.

YEAR	Farms monitored	Positive animals	Positive farms	New positive farms	% BHV-1 virus - free farms	Prevalence (% positive farms)	Incidence (% new positive farms)
2014	1029	2	0	0	100	0.0	0.0



- From 2014 with the inclusion of the Valle d'Aosta region in the annex I of decision 2004/558/EC as amended, for the introduction of susceptible animal in region must be applied the additional guarantees provided for IBR in the article 2. Consequently if the region will be included in the annex II, as requested, it must be apply the relative condition of article 3 (this concern all the holdings including the 2 fattening in question that introduce young animals from outside and represent less than 0,2% of total holdings).



- The epidemiological data on the prevalence/incidence attest an optimal health status gradually reached thank to an effectiveness surveillance and eradication plan that cover a period over than 10 years. The regional C.A. inform us that this positive trend is confirmed during 2015 in which no holding until now has been revoked by IBR-free status.





Thank you
for your attention