

Eradication: Final report for Bovine Brucellosis 2018

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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Country code: IT

Reporting period

From: 2018

To: 2018

Year of implementation: 2018

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 the eradication of *B. abortus* is annual and covers the following objectives:

- to continue with, and step up, animal health measures and measures to prevent brucellosis in bovine and buffalo;
- to intensify disease eradication in infected holdings so they can be declared officially brucellosis-free or, for holdings where vaccination has been applied, brucellosis-free;
- to retain the officially disease-free status (or disease-free status where vaccination has been applied) for holdings that have already achieved this qualification.

The planned and achievable objective for 2018, was for other Italian provinces and regions to acquire (or retain) the requirements to qualify for the officially disease-free status (or disease-free status where vaccination is applied) as regards brucellosis in bovine and buffalo.

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, in force until June 2018 (ANNEX 1). The Ordinance applied in the not OBF territories for the eradication as well as in the OBF territories for the surveillance of the disease, has the aim of improving in this way, an uniform control of the disease in all Italy. In the renew of the Ordinance has been regulated by apposite guide line, the correct execution of the epidemiological enquires for the control of the outbreaks, such as indicated by the specific Working Group on the epidemiological enquire held by the Ministry of

Health.

The other measures included in the Ordinance are the following:

- 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 (ANNEX 3) of the Ministry of health;
- 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.

Brucella abortus has been eradicated from most part of the Italian territory. Out of 19 Regions and 2 Autonomous provinces, 13 of them and 3 Provinces of the Region Abruzzo, Molise and Puglia have been declared Officially B. abortus - Free according to EU legislation (ANNEX 1). Furthermore the request of OBF of the Province of Rome (Lazio Region) has been declared OBF in 2018 with the decision n° 6981 of the 26 October 2018.

In the year 2018, the prevalence recorded for the disease in Italy, calculated on all the herds present in the national territory, has been 0,48% while in the territories still not declared as O.F. (4 regions and: three provinces of the Region Abruzzo, 5 provinces of Region Puglia, 1 province of Region Molise and 1 province of Region Lazio) the prevalence recorded has been 1,29%, with an incidence of 1,07%.

This data are improving respect the 2017 (ANNEX 2/3) that where respectively 0,54% (national prevalence), 1,47%-1,24% (prevalence and incidence registered in the still not OBF).

The number of herds present in 2018 (88784) is increased respect the holdings present in 2017 (84492) while the number of outbreak registered in the 2017 (388) is decreased respect the one registered in 2016 (457).

As the last year the higher prevalence in Italy is reported from Sicily region, with an overall prevalence of 2,27% herds infected on controlled, and with the Province of Messina recording the highest value amongst all provinces, i.e. 5,73%.

In July, the Ministry of Health has verified during a follow-up Audit regarding the verification of efficacy, the measures applied in Sicily by the Regional Decree 2113/2017, as response at the solicitation of the DGSANTE to faster the eradication of *B. melitensis*.

The auditor have visited the ASP of Messina and Palermo and at the end have produced the following recommendation:

1. Guarantee the communication to the Ministry of Health of the results of the checks on the effectiveness of the controls in the annual report of the activity carried out, in accordance with the provisions of art. 12 paragraph 2 of the O.M. 28 May 2015.
2. Guarantee the harmonization and standardization of the effectiveness verification activities with suitable checklists such as to ensure an adequate level of quality control in the audited sector in accordance with art. 4 (3) and of the art. 8 (1) of Regulation 882/2004 and instructions to ensure consistency in the frequency, timing and percentages of control in the field and checks on information systems.
3. To ensure that the competent Authorities of the AASSPP draw up and implement an annual program of interventions to verify the effectiveness of the activities carried out, pursuant to art. 8 paragraph 3 of Regulation (EC) no. 882/2004 and according to the provisions of the State-Regions Agreement of 7 February 2013 n. 46 / CSR and of the art.12 comma 1) of the O.M. of May 28th, 2015 and s.m.
4. Ensure that the AASSPPs implement all the measures provided for by the art. 3, 5, 6 and 8 of the Regional Extraordinary Plan of 10/26/2017 issued at the request of the Ministry of Health (prot. DGSAF n. 21373 of 21/09/2017) concerning:
 - the correct identification of the animals;
 - the control of animal movements;
 - the increased level of field checks.
5. Ensure that the AASSPPs carry out 100% of the annual double checks for bovine and buffalo brucellosis in accordance with the Ivo decree n. 651/94 and D.M. 2 July 1992, n. 453.
6. Ensure that the AASSPPs implement an internal cascade training program on the use of the SANAN, SIMAN and BDN remediation management information systems in order to guarantee the provisions of art. 8, paragraph 1f) of the Regional Extraordinary Plan of 10/26/2017.

To improve the supervision of the eradication plans the Ministry of Health organized a Workshop on the national database started in September 2017 and that has ended in November 2018.

Trough specific Working Groups the Workshop has had the aim to renew the databases: SANAN, SISALM, BDN for ASF, the Electronic Veterinary Recipe and build of a DASHBOARD to control the eradication plans

activities.

The Working groups has started the activities at January 2018 and have finished the 14 of November 2018 in a plenary meeting involving 200 veterinarians employed in Regions, local veterinary unit, Laboratories (Institute Zooprofilattico Sperimentale), Regional Epidemiological Observatories, National Centre of Reference for brucellosis.

In the plenary meeting the speakers have presented the roadmap of the works done on informatics systems mentioned above and the related results achieved. In the same reunion have been presented the DASHBOARD that make possible at, Local, Regional and Central level the control on the application of the eradication program.

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 (ANNEX 2 and 3) concerning the eradication activities carried out between 2017 and 2018 has revealed the situation described below.

The bovine national holdings population subject to the program in the year 2017 is increased (88784), compared with the data of 2016 (84492).

The number of controlled holdings in the territories not OBF is decreased in 2018 (30174) respect to 2017 (31087). The number of positive herds is lower (388), than in 2016 (457). The number of outbreaks stamped-out (23) is higher than in 2017 (20).

The percentage of holdings controlled in 2018 is similar (99,77%), at the percentage of holdings controlled in 2017 (99.95%), and it is getting closer at what prescribed in the prorogation of the Ministerial Order of the 28 of May 2015 (100%). The prevalence and incidence registered in 2018, in the territories not OBF, are lower (1,29%-1,07%) than the results obtained in 2017 (1,47%-1,24%).

We can say, that for year 2018 has been registered a positive improving respect the 2017. This progress may be due at the application of the prorogation of the Ministerial Order applied for all the year 2018. In seven of the 8 Regions still not OBF we have registered progress in the eradication programs (Abruzzo, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia and Sicily). Five of them have registered a prevalence under 0% (Abruzzo - 0,36%, Basilicata -0,93%, Calabria 0,73%, Campania 0,81%, Molise 0,20%) in particular Lazio Region has been declared OBF by the Commission Decision 6981 of the 26 October 2018.

The more problematic Regione despite the positive improvement remain the Sicily that records 2,27% of prevalence with the Province of Messina that record the maximum rate of prevalence of the Region (5,73%).

The target fixed in the WORKING DOCUMENT SANTE/2017/10186 rev 1 Guidelines for the Union co-funded programmes of eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonosis for the years 2018-2020, for bovine-buffalo brucellosis in the entire nation was: reduction of 30% $0,66 = 0,46$.

The prevalence recorded for the disease in Italy in 2017 calculated on all the herds under control, has been 0,48%.

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.

Four regions are not still OBF (Sicilia, Calabria, Basilicata, Campania). Four other regions, have Provinces that has been declared OBF :

Puglia - Province of Brindisi;

Molise - Province of Campobasso;

Abruzzo . Province of Pescara.

The trends of cattle brucellosis prevalence and incidence in non-OBF territories are clearly declining during the last five years (ANNEX 4) like also in all Italy. Are still present some area where are not registered the same progress like the buffalo in Campania Region, where is registered an increasing of the prevalence. See also ANNEX 5 (notification of abortion) and 6 (distribution outbreaks).

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 herds depopulated	% of herds coverage		% of positive herds Period herd prevalence		% of positive herds Herd incidence	
ABRUZZO	Cattle	3,117	1,956	1,956	1,956	7	3	1

			14.29 %		100 %		0.36 %		0.15 %
BASILICATA	Cattle	2,621	2,371	2,371	2,371	22	18	4	
			18.18 %		100 %		0.93 %		0.76 %
CALABRIA	Cattle	6,852	5,404	5,336	5,336	39	39	0	
			0 %		100 %		0.73 %		0.73 %
CAMPANIA	Cattle	9,198	6,413	6,413	6,413	52	36	3	
			5.77 %		100 %		0.81 %		0.56 %
CAMPANIA	Buffalo	1,158	1,128	1,128	1,128	71	54	15	
			21.13 %		100 %		6.29 %		4.79 %
MOLISE	Cattle	687	501	501	501	1	1	0	
			0 %		100 %		0.2 %		0.2 %
PUGLIA	Cattle and Buffalo	3,586	3,394	3,394	3,394	50	38	8	
			16 %		100 %		1.47 %		1.12 %
SICILIA	Cattle	9,689	9,414	9,414	9,413	214	185	7	
			3.27 %		99.99 %		2.27 %		1.97 %
Total		36,908	30,581	30,513	30,512	456	374	38	
			8.33 %		100 %		1.49 %		1.23 %

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			
ABRUZZO	Cattle	56,780	37,957	37,957	37,957	37,957	66	66	265
					100 %				0.17 %
BASILICATA	Cattle	104,848	74,930	74,930	74,930	74,930	218	218	554
					100 %				0.29 %
CALABRIA	Cattle	128,958	91,681	91,469	91,469	91,469	92	78	78
					100 %				0.1 %
CAMPANIA	Cattle	182,420	129,602	129,602	129,580	129,580	163	163	214
					99.98 %				0.13 %
CAMPANIA	Buffalo	316,152	279,782	279,782	279,782	279,782	5,772	5,412	6,545
					100 %				2.06 %
MOLISE	Cattle	19,017	11,719	11,719	11,719	11,719	1	0	1
					100 %				0.01 %
PUGLIA	Cattle and Buffalo	193,317	138,382	138,382	138,382	138,382	348	342	1,372
					100 %				0.25 %
SICILIA	Cattle	380,008	272,318	272,316	272,316	272,316	1,567	1,539	1,972
					100 %				0.58 %
Total		1,381,500	1,036,371	1,036,157	1,036,135	1,036,135	8,227	7,818	11,001
					100 %				0.79 %

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

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	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	ABRUZZO	Cattle	1,956	0	2	3	3	0	1,948
animals	"	"	37,957	0	101	621	73	0	37,162
herds	BASILICATA	Cattle	2,371	0	2	10	1	0	2,358
animals	"	"	74,930	0	208	882	35	0	73,805
herds	CALABRIA	Cattle	5,323	1	11	36	4	0	5,271
animals	"	"	91,345	2	602	481	40	0	90,220
herds	CAMPANIA	Cattle	6,312	0	13	48	8	0	6,243
animals	"	"	129,339	0	864	1,182	166	0	127,127
herds	CAMPANIA	Buffalo	1,111	0	31	27	7	12	1,034
animals	"	"	276,480	0	11,436	9,385	4,264	4,785	246,610
herds	MOLISE	Cattle	501	0	1	0	0	0	500
animals	"	"	11,719	0	41	0	0	0	11,678
herds	PUGLIA	Cattle and Buffalo	3,394	0	13	20	0	0	3,361
animals	"	"	138,382	0	1,276	851	0	0	136,255
herds	SICILIA	Cattle	9,207	0	29	175	45	0	8,958
animals	"	"	270,434	0	1,948	6,046	683	0	261,757
Total - herds			30,175	1	102	319	68	12	29,673
Total - animals			1,030,586	2	16,476	19,448	5,261	4,785	984,614

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

Region	Animal species	Status	Reason	Number of herds
ABRUZZO	Cattle	suspended	the disease is suspected	9
BASILICATA	Cattle	suspended	the disease is suspected	1
CALABRIA	Cattle	suspended	entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	1
CALABRIA	Cattle	suspended	the disease is suspected	4
CALABRIA	Cattle	suspended	non-negative result in diagnostic test	8
CALABRIA	Cattle	suspended	does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	2
CAMPANIA	Cattle	suspended	entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	1
CAMPANIA	Cattle	suspended	non-negative result in diagnostic test	63
CAMPANIA	Cattle	suspended	does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	1
CAMPANIA	Buffalo	suspended	non-negative result in diagnostic test	19
MOLISE	Cattle	suspended	the disease is suspected	1
SICILIA	Cattle	suspended	the disease is suspected	5
SICILIA	Cattle	suspended	does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	40
Total				155

Table F - STRATIFIED DATA ON SURVEILLANCE AND LABORATORY TESTS

Region	Animal species	Test type	Number of samples	Number of tests	Number of positive tests
ABRUZZO	Cattle	Rose bengal test	39,815	39,815	73
BASILICATA	Cattle	Rose bengal test	106,154	106,154	218
CALABRIA	Cattle	Rose bengal test	156,607	156,607	109
CAMPANIA	Cattle	Rose bengal test	229,102	229,102	235
CAMPANIA	Buffalo	Rose bengal test	568,002	568,002	5,741
MOLISE	Cattle	Rose bengal test	11,719	11,719	1
PUGLIA	Cattle	Rose bengal test	288,543	288,543	566
SICILIA	Cattle	Rose bengal test	484,730	484,730	1,560
ABRUZZO	Cattle	Complement fixation test	0	5,966	66

BASILICATA	Cattle	Complement fixation test	0	5,744	218
CALABRIA	Cattle	Complement fixation test	0	8,052	88
CAMPANIA	Cattle	Complement fixation test	0	24,185	109
CAMPANIA	Buffalo	Complement fixation test	0	104,773	5,075
MOLISE	Cattle	Complement fixation test	0	31	1
PUGLIA	Cattle and Buffalo	Complement fixation test	0	17,725	348
SICILIA	Cattle	Complement fixation test	0	103,859	1,542
BASILICATA	Cattle	Bacteriological test	68	68	14
CALABRIA	Cattle	Bacteriological test	85	85	1
CAMPANIA	Cattle	Bacteriological test	1,255	1,255	22
CAMPANIA	Buffalo	Bacteriological test	2,915	2,915	43
MOLISE	Cattle	Bacteriological test	1	1	1
PUGLIA	Cattle and Buffalo	Bacteriological test	229	229	40
SICILIA	Cattle	Bacteriological test	637	637	80
BASILICATA	Cattle	PCR test	0	7	4
PUGLIA	Cattle and Buffalo	PCR test	0	91	58
SICILIA	Cattle	PCR test	0	120	37
Total			1,889,862	2,160,415	16,250
			Methods of laboratory analysis	Total number of tests	
			Total - Bacteriological test	5,190	
			Total - Complement fixation test	270,335	
			Total - PCR test	218	
			Total - Rose bengal test	1,884,672	

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

As requested by the Commission, in this version of the report have been deleted the data of Lazio, because of declaration of this Region as OBF with Commission Decision of the 26 October 2018.