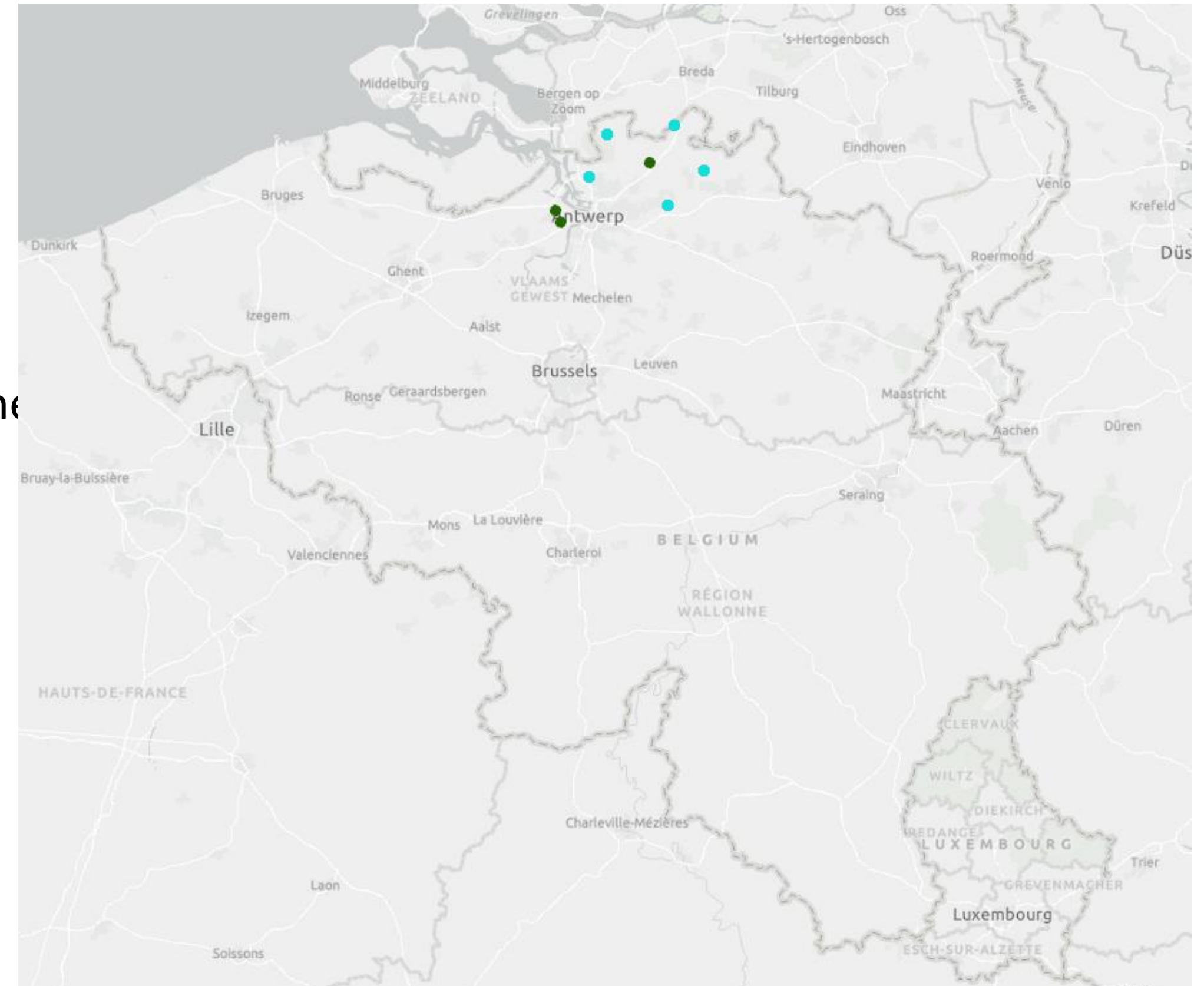




# Bluetongue – situation in Belgium

PAFF Committee 28-08-2024

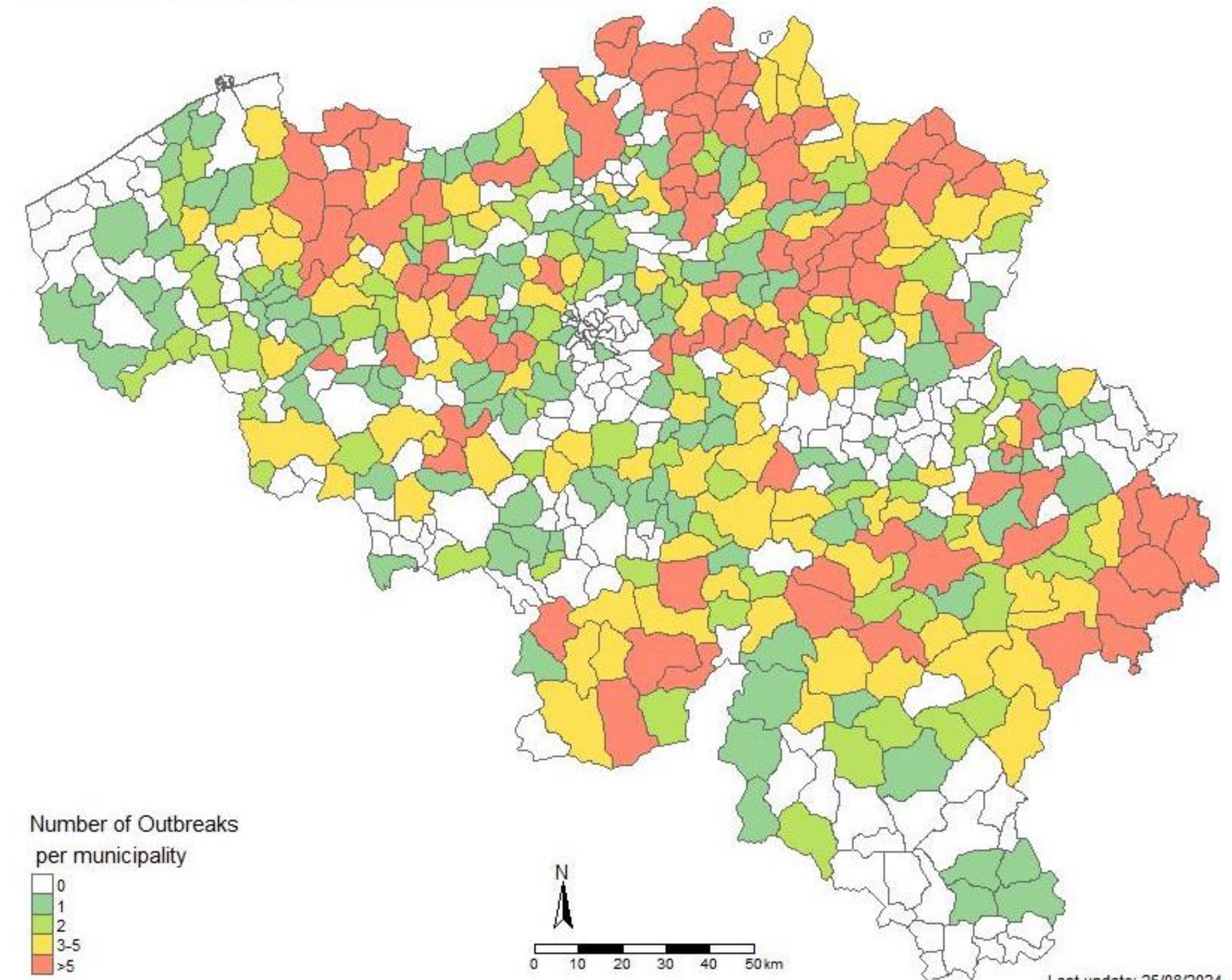
- June 5, 2023: free status for Bluetongue (BTV)
- October 9, 2023:
  - Confirmation of BTV serotype 3 in a sheep
  - Loss of BTV-free status
  - The entire Belgian territory was demarcated as a restriction zone with no restrictions on national trade
  - Total:
    - ❖ 5 clinical cases in sheep
    - ❖ 2 cases in the context of the winterscreening:
      - = Annual screening of cattle for BTV, brucellosis, leucosis and tuberculosis
      - Objective for BTV: determine prevalence in cattle population December 2023 - February 2024
    - ❖ 1 case in the context of cross-border movements



## Bluetongue – situation in Belgium 2024

- Sharp increase of outbreaks since July 2024
- 27/08: 1279 confirmed outbreaks
  - 603 cattle
  - 653 sheep
  - 16 goats
  - 7 alpacas
- More information: [Sciensano](#)
- Symptoms depend on whether vaccination was carried out or not (lameness!)
- Increased mortality

Number of BTV outbreaks per municipality from 1 June 2024



Last update: 25/08/2024

- Vaccination
    - 3 vaccins have an authorisation for use
    - Recommended but not mandatory
    - Registration in Sanitel (national database) is mandatory
      - ❖ +- 500 doses registered for goats
      - ❖ +- 100.000 doses registered for cattle
      - ❖ +- 37.000 doses registered for sheep
- = +- 137.500 doses

Low vaccination rates: → encourage livestock farmers to vaccinate

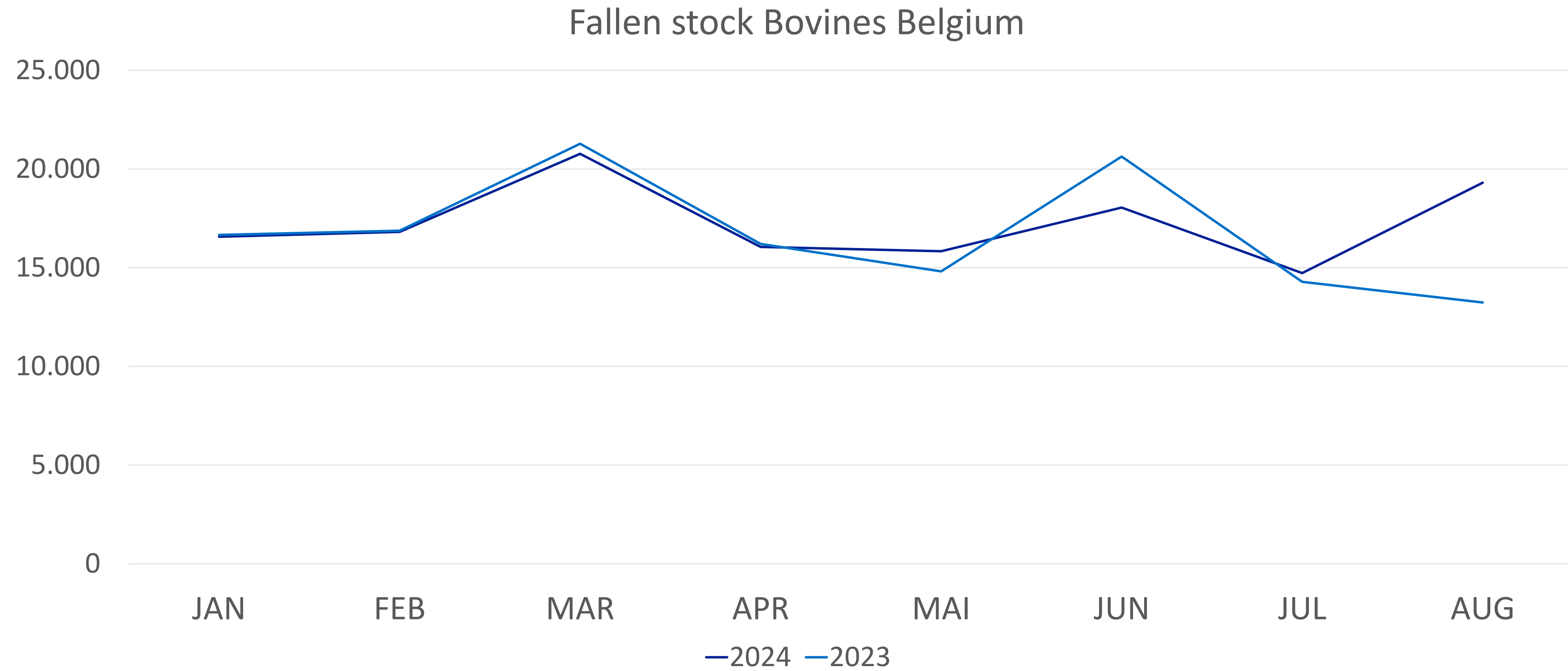
## Bluetongue – situation in Belgium

Sharp increase in the mortality of sheep



## Bluetongue – situation in Belgium

Increase in the mortality of cattle since August



- High impact
  - Current vaccines don't give total protection
  - A lot of ill sheep and cattle
  - Time and costs of veterinary care
  - Sharp increase in mortality of sheep
  - Difficulties for rendering plant to cope with excess mortality

- Major impact on the movement of bluetongue-susceptible animals, semen and embryos to other Member States
  - A lot of bluetongue cases
  - No vaccine approved for cross-border movements
  - No vector-free period in Belgium
  - No vector protected establishments
  - Belgian animals therefore do not fall into the ‘safe animals’ category.
  - Only movements under specific derogations granted by some Member States of destination are possible.





Bluetongue – situation in Belgium

**Thank you for your attention**