



ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Working Group of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain

Sheep Pox outbreak in Spain

State-of-play

Brussels, 28 October 2022

- **Sheep Pox & Goat Pox (SGP) at a glance**
- **SGP global distribution**
- **SGP situation in Spain**

Sheep Pox & Goat Pox (SGP) at a glance

- **A viral disease affecting Sheep and Goats**
- **Causative agent: a Capripox virus (similar to Lumpy Skin Disease), survives for long in the environment**
- **Most strains cause a serious disease either in sheep (sheep pox) or goats (goat pox), however some sheep pox strains may affect goats too and vice-versa.**
- **No known epidemiological connection with wildlife or chronic carrier state**
- **Transmission can be direct (animal to animal) or indirect (e.g. mechanically via contaminated tools, materials etc.). Vectors may play a minor role.**
- **Disease causes typical skin lesions (macules⇒papules⇒scabs⇒ulcers) but also lesions to internal organs (lungs).**
- **Usually High Morbidity but Variable Mortality (higher in naïve animals)**
- **Live SGP Vaccines exist (outside the EU). Last SGP vaccination in the EU was decades ago.**

SGP Global distribution

- **Sheep pox and goat pox are endemic in Africa north of the Equator, the Middle East and Asia (*source: WAHO*)**
- **SGP eradicated from most EU countries decades ago**

Last outbreaks in Europe (before the outbreaks in Spain):

- **Bulgaria (2013)**
- **Greece**
 - **Mainland – North-East territories (2015)**
 - **East Aegean Region – Lesvos Island (2018)**

Likely source of the above outbreaks in Europe was identified as neighbouring Turkey (SGP endemic)

SGP Situation in Spain

First outbreak (*Benamaurel, Granada, Andalucía*)

- **15th September 2022:** MAPA received from OVS of Andalucía (south Spain) a communication of the detection of unusual skin lesions on a sheep holding in the municipality of
- **The lesions are compatible with Sheep and Goat Poxvirus (SP/GTPV) and the case is dealt with urgently.**
- **It is a breeding sheep holding for meat production with a census of 314 sheep and 11 goats.** It is a holding with extensive production system where animals graze in own pastures.
- **19th September 2022:** Report of the 1st outbreak in ADIS .

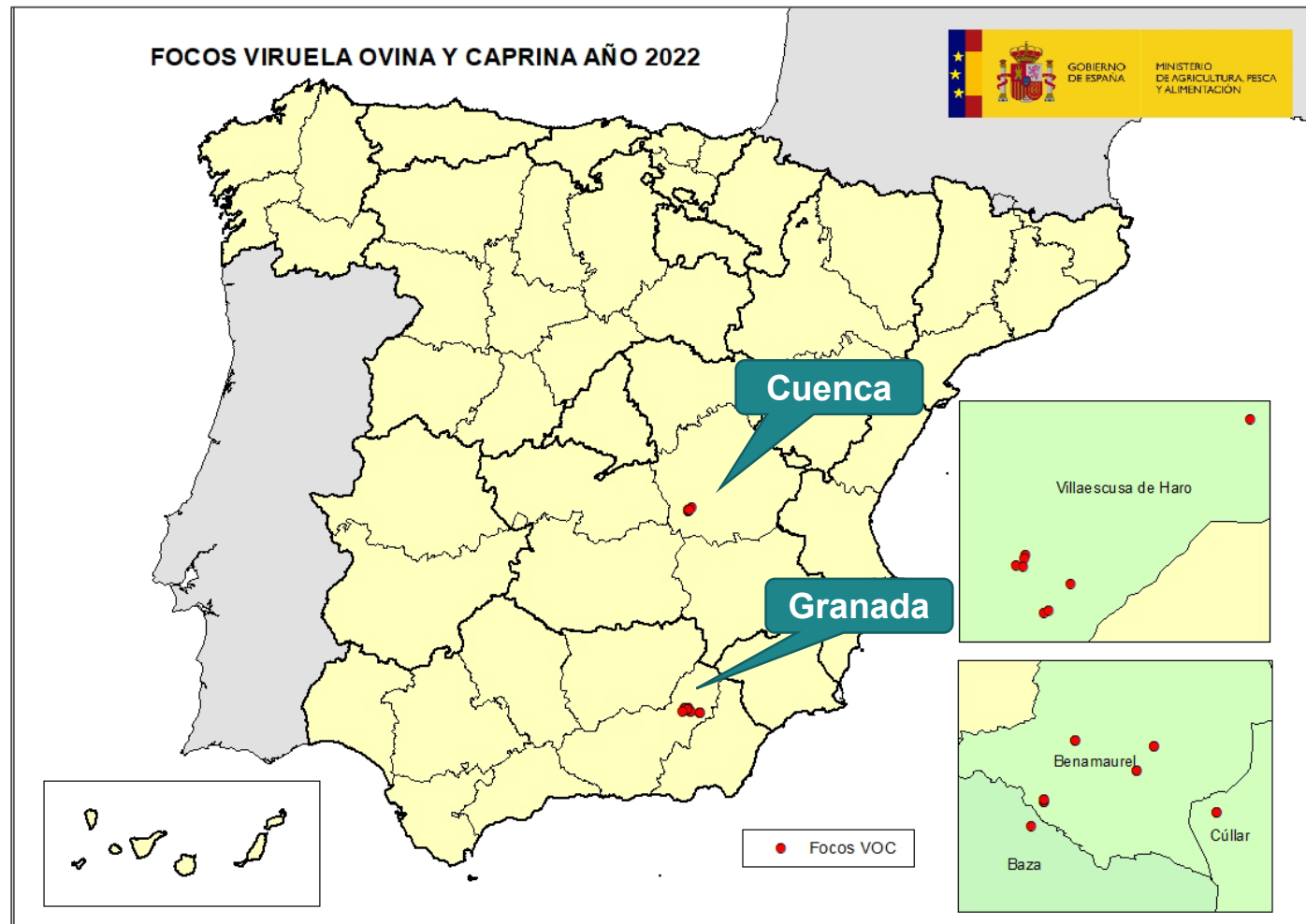


SGP Situation in Spain

Current Situation to date

At the moment 17 confirmed outbreaks clustered in 2 epicentres in :

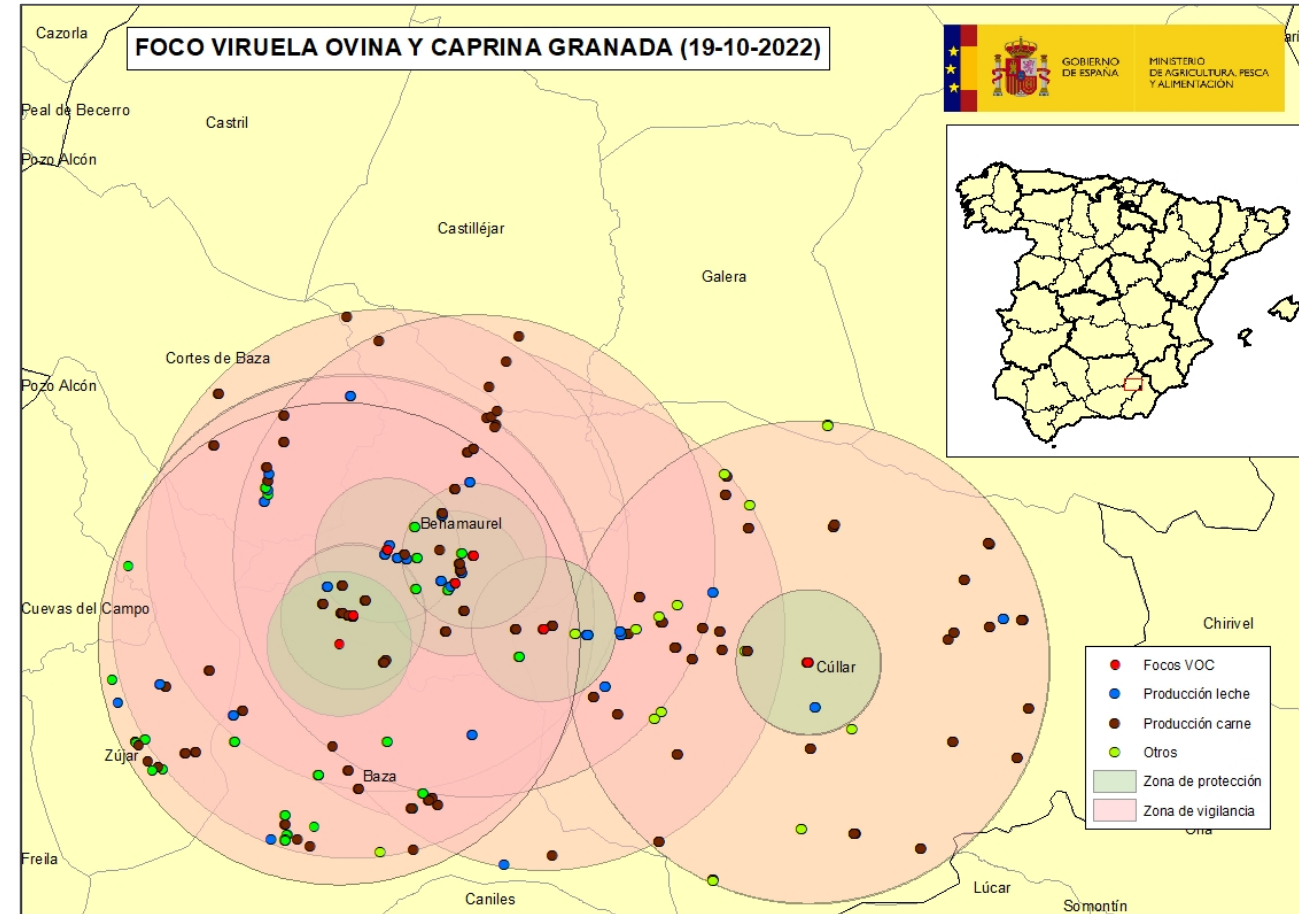
- **Granada** (*Andalucía*)
- **Cuenca** (*Castilla – La Mancha*)



SGP Situation in Spain

Granada

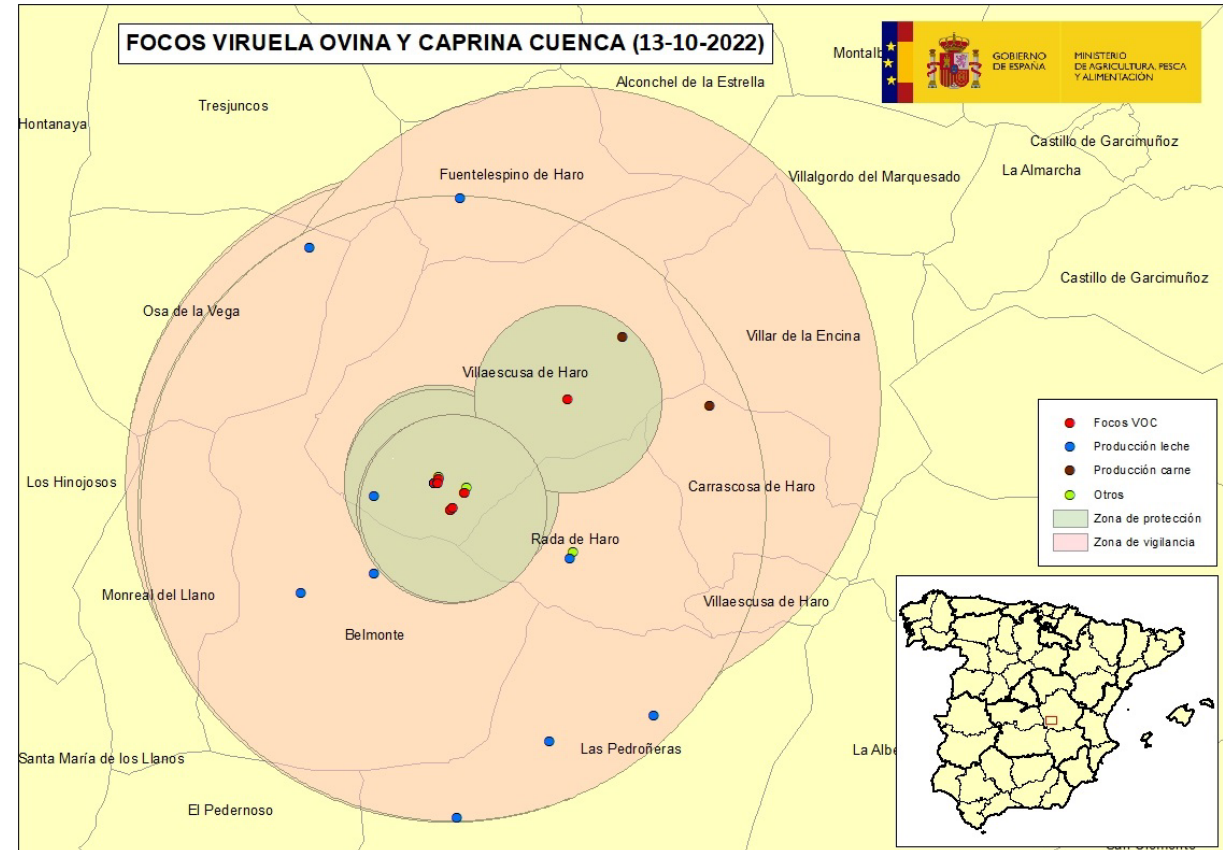
- In total, **9 outbreaks** are in the province of Granada, in the municipalities of **Benamaurel (5)**, **Cúllar (3)** and **Baza (1)**.
- All of them are **breeding farms for meat production**.
- Total census of animals in the 9 affected holdings: **1.886 sheep** and **84 goats**
- Total census of farms in the RRZZ: **200 farms** (45 in the PZ 3km and 155 in the SZ 10km) and **108.924 animals**



SGP Situation in Spain

Cuenca

- In total, **8 outbreaks** in the province of **Cuenca**, in the municipality of **Villaescusa de Haro**. Total census of **27.529 sheep**.
- **Same epidemiological unit**, since most of the affected farms belong to the same owner and share veterinarians, personnel, machinery, etc.
- Three **fattening farms**, two **assembly centers** and three breeding farms for **milk production**.
- A total of **32 farms** and **41.739 animals** included on the RZ.



SGP Situation in Spain

Control measures : Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687

- ❑ Affected farms (outbreaks): stamping out , cleaning and disinfection etc.
- ❑ Establishment of protection (3km) and surveillance (10) zones around outbreaks (restricted zones)
- ❑ In the restricted zones :
 - **Census of all farms and susceptible animals** (species, categories, number of animals/establishment).
 - **Restriction on the movement and official control of animal and risk products movements, including reproductive materials and ABP.**
 - Prohibition of **fairs, markets, exhibitions** and other concentrations of livestock.
 - **Enhanced biosecurity and passive surveillance.**
 - **Latest safeguard measures : Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2004 of 18 October 2022 amending the Annex to **Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/1913****
 - Description of the restricted zones (= PZ and SZ around outbreaks)

SGP Situation in Spain

OVERVIEW

- **17 confirmed outbreaks** so far in 2 zones epidemiologically linked most of them by animal movements.
- In the restricted area of Cuenca, 6 out of 8 outbreaks are considered actually **one epidemiological unit**. They belong to the same owner and share veterinarian, workers and machinery.
- Samples sent to the EURL (Sciensano, Belgium) for phylogenetic analysis to try to identify possible origin of the strain circulating in Spain. **Some regions of the genome connect to strains from North African origin.**
- OVS of Andalucía and C. La Mancha are making a great effort **visiting immediately all holdings located within and outside the RZs** (all affected, suspect and risk-contact farms).
- Origin of the virus remains unknown at the moment, investigations keep ongoing.
- **No risk movement identified to other member states.**
- **EU additional support : EU VET mission (17-18 October)**
- (cooperation of field and EURL experts with Spanish veterinary authorities)

SGP Situation in Spain

Final Remarks - Additional info

Additional info presented at the PAFF Committee website (section Animal Health and Welfare):

https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees/animal-health-and-welfare_en

Information related to the disease, made available by the Spanish authorities, can be found at the following link:

https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/sanidad-animal-higiene-ganadera/sanidad-animal/enfermedades/viruela-ovina-caprina/viruela_ovina_caprina.aspx

LA VIRUELA OVINA Y CAPRINA ES UNA ENFERMEDAD MUY GRAVE QUE HA APARECIDO EN ESPAÑA Y AFECTA A GANADO OVINO Y CAPRINO EN NINGÚN CASO SE TRANSMITE A LOS SERES HUMANOS

¿Cómo podemos saber si nuestras ovejas o cabras pueden haber contraído la enfermedad?

1 Examine diariamente a los animales de su granja; principalmente las ovejas, pero también las cabras

- > En la cabeza
- > En el abdomen
- > En el pecho
- > En las axilas
- > En el área genital
- > En la base y bajo la cola
- > En el muslo
- > En cualquier otra parte del cuerpo del animal sin pelo



2 Buscar cuidadosamente lesiones de estos tipos:

Enrojecimiento, vesículas llenas de líquido, o bien rotas con puntos rojos de la piel, otras heridas, lesiones cicatrizadas en forma de puntos negros, llagas



Oveja con externas lesiones en forma de pápulas (o miliums a grandes rasos) distribuidas por todo el cuerpo, en especial en la zona del abdomen.



Lesiones en forma de pápulas en la base y debajo de la cola



Lesiones granulares en forma de pápulas



Lesiones características en órganos internos (hígado, pulmón...)



Lesiones erosionadas y en fase de cicatrización en el hocico



Lesiones avanzadas, en fase de cicatrización, distribuidas por todo el cuerpo y abdomen



Lesiones granulares en forma de pápulas distribuidas por el abdomen y la zona inguinal



Lesiones en forma de vesículas y pápulas en la base del muslo

3 SI SE DETECTA CUALQUIERA DE ESTOS SÍNTOMAS O LESIONES COMPATIBLES CON LA ENFERMEDAD COMUNIQUE DE FORMA INMEDIATA A LOS SERVICIOS VETERINARIOS OFICIALES ESTOS HALLAZGOS Y SIGA SUS INSTRUCCIONES

SI SOSPECHA QUE SUS ANIMALES PUEDEN HABER CONTRAÍDO LA ENFERMEDAD, NO ESPERE Y AVISE DE FORMA INMEDIATA A LOS VETERINARIOS TODO EL GANADO DE SU REGIÓN PUEDE ESTAR EN RIESGO

Para más información, póngase en contacto con las autoridades veterinarias locales de su zona

¿Cómo debemos actuar para prevenir la entrada de Viruela Ovina y Caprina en nuestras explotaciones?

- > Evitar o reducir al mínimo posible las visitas externas a nuestra explotación, así como nuestras visitas a otras explotaciones de ovejas y cabras.
- > Evitar compartir personal, maquinaria, herramientas, pienso, material de cama y otros materiales entre explotaciones.
- > Reforzar la limpieza y desinfección de nuestros vehículos, en especial las ruedas y bajos, tras la entrada y antes de la salida de nuestra explotación
- > Comunicar a los Servicios Veterinarios Oficiales cualquier movimiento sospechoso de ser ilegal en la zona del que tengamos conocimiento



Thank you



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