



Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen  
Agence fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire  
Föderalagentur für die Sicherheit der Nahrungsmittelkette  
Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain

FAVV  
AFSCA  
FASNK  
FASFC

AHW.A.02.(PRM).(BELGIUM).Bluetongue Belgium ScoPAFF 14-15 12 2023

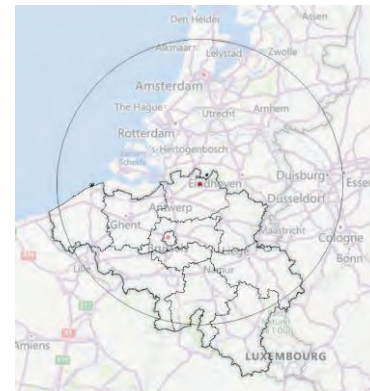
# Bluetongue - Situation in Belgium

**AHW PAFF, 14-15 December 2023**

# Bluetongue – Situation in Belgium

## ○ Bluetongue outbreaks (5):

- 9 October 2023: confirmation of BTV serotype 3 in 1 sheep on a small holding close to the border with the Netherlands
  - Loss of BT-free status
  - Entire Belgian territory demarcated as restricted zone  
-> no restrictions on national trade
- 10 October 2023 – 12 December 2023:
  - 4 additional individual cases in sheep on 4 different farms
  - All in the province of Antwerp
  - All sheep had clinical signs
  - 1 sheep was euthanized, 3 sheep recovered



# Bluetongue – Situation in Belgium

- Near future:
  - End of the vector season
    - No more outbreaks expected this year
  - Winterscreening:
    - = Annual screening in cattle for Bluetongue, Brucellosis, Leucosis and Tuberculosis
    - Goal for Bluetongue: determine the prevalence in the cattle population
    - December 2023 – February 2024



# Bluetongue – Situation in Belgium

- Vaccine:

- Essential for animal health, animal welfare and trade
- Urgent
- Meeting with pharmaceutical companies
  - Several pharmaceutical companies interested in developing a vaccine against serotype 3
  - Key question for pharmaceutical companies: number of doses needed
  - Timing: best case scenario late spring/summer 2024, but depends on authorization process
  - Focus on sheep first and then cattle

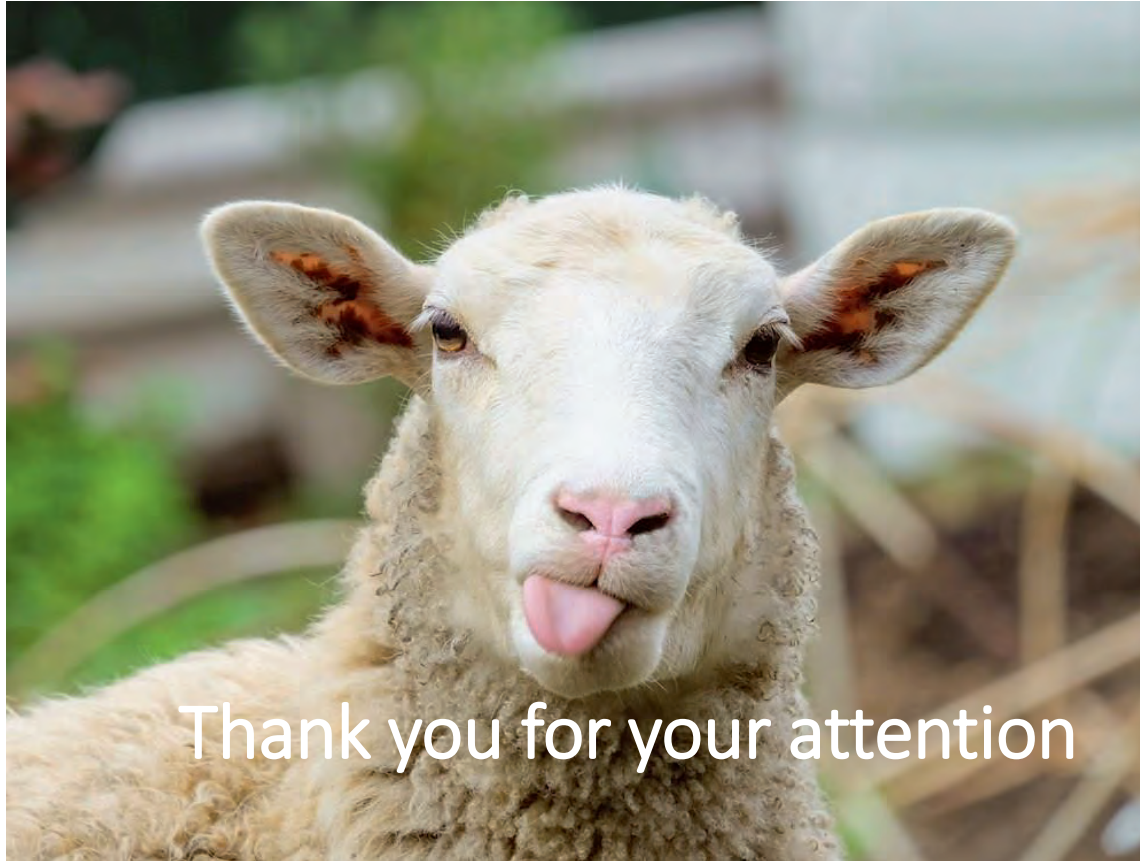


# Bluetongue – situation in Belgium

## ○ Consequences

- No restriction measures on affected farms (except for movements to other Member States)
  - Major impact on movement of live ruminants, semen and embryos to other Member States
    - No vaccine available
    - No real vector-free period
    - No approved eradication programme
    - Belgium does not meet the conditions for "safe animals"
- Only specific derogations depending on Member State of destination





Thank you for your attention

