



**MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Division
Veterinary Regulation Directorate**

TUBERCULOSIS OUTBREAK MALTA

SCOPAFF Meeting 28 February 2018

DAIRY FARMS IN MALTA



DAIRY FARMS MALTA

A TOTAL OF 65 DAIRY ACTIVE CATTLE FARMS IN MALTA AND 33 IN GOZO ARE REGISTERED WITH THE VETERINARY REGULATION DIRECTORATE.

Year	Bovine Herds	Bovine Population	Dairy Herds	Dairy Bovine Population	Tuberculosis
2017	264	14455	98	13039	1.02%
2016	259	15028	97	13431	0%
2015	269	15357	108	13281	0%
2014	281	15686	119	13863	0%
2013	288	15775	119	14555	0%
2012	324	15628	121	14004	0%

NON DAIRY FARMS

Non-dairy farms hold the majority of sheep and goats present on the Maltese islands

Tuberculosis testing is carried out on those few farms which rear bovines for fattening and also on caprine if they are kept on the same premises with the bovines

Tuberculosis Non dairy		
Total TB Testing	Bovine	Caprine
1745	1134	611
1479	531	948

TBC TESTING

- **Bovine tuberculosis:** All dairy farms considered officially TB free are visited at least once a year and the number of test performed are shown in the below table

Year	Bovines	Caprine
2016	12463	777
2017	10090	581

THE FIRST FINDINGS

- After doubtful results on a farm located in Maghtab, on 12th May 2017 a further TB testing was performed on 21st July 2017 with reading of the reaction on 24th July 2017.
- In this test, 4 cows were deemed as TBC positive and 17 bovines had a doubtful reaction for the second time.

LOCALIZATION



Dairy Farms
in Malta



PositiveFarm

Malta Animal Farms
390 visualizzazioni

Tutte le modifiche sono state salvate in Drive

Aggiungi livello + Condividi

Anteprima

- D220
- D223
- D227
- D230
- D233
- D167
- D168
- D260
- D259**
- D241
- D248
- D249
- D244
- D236
- D263
- D262
- D234
- D202
- D043
- D263
- D106
- D238
- D226
- D052-057
- D068

D259

latitude 35.9388157
longitude 14.4380495
unnamed (1) Farm with TB outbreak
35.93881, 14.43804

Google My Maps

Dati mappa ©2017 Google Immagini ©2017 TerraMetrics Termini

FIRST SLAUGHTER: THE POSITIVE CASES

DATE	EAR TAG	FINDINGS AT PMI	DECISION ON CARCASS
01/08/2017	CZ347476921	Presence of lymphadenitis and nodules limited to the mediastinal lymph nodes. Lungs and related lymph nodes condemned.	Fit for human consumption
01/08/2017	MT0803052	Presence of caseous nodules in mediastinal and hepatic lymph nodes and tonsils.	Condemned as not fit for human consumption.
01/08/2017	MT0834703	Presence of granulomatous tubercles with caseous material affecting the retropharyngeal lymph nodes. Lardaceous-like foci in tonsils. Inflammatory reactions of other groups of lymph nodes.	Condemned as not fit for human consumption.
01/08/2017	MT0897611	Presence of a calcified nodules in one mesenteric lymph node. No other lesions observed on other organs and related lymph nodes.	Fit for human consumption

SECOND SLAUGHTER: 17 DUBIOUS ANIMALS; ONLY 4 WERE CONDEMNED

17/08/2017	MT0934 033	No specific lesions observed at the post-mortem inspection. However, carcass was found affected by diffuse lymphadenitis.	Condemned as not fit for human consumption.
17/08/2017	MT0833 325	No specific lesions observed at the post-mortem inspection. Presence of abscesses affecting mesenteric lymph nodes. Carcass detained and found the following day without rigor.	Condemned as not fit for human consumption.
17/08/2017	CZ3709 29921	No specific lesions observed at the post-mortem inspection. However, the carcass was affected by traumatic reticulo-peritonitis and presence of multiple abscesses in abdomen.	Condemned as not fit for human consumption.
17/08/2017	MT0853 091	No specific lesions observed at the post-mortem inspection. However, the carcass was affected by diffuse lymphadenitis and presence of abscess in liver.	Condemned as not fit for human consumption.

THIRD AND FOURTH SLAUGHTER

27/09/2017	MTo60 1695	No specific lesions observed at the post-mortem inspection	Fit for human consumption
27/09/2017	MT093 4011	No specific lesions observed at the post-mortem inspection	Fit for human consumption
27/09/2017	MTo63 6286	No specific lesions observed at the post-mortem inspection	Fit for human consumption
22/11/2017	CZ3709 19921	Presence of granulomatous lesions with caseous material affecting mesenteric lymph nodes.	Condemned as not fit for human consumption, since generalization could not be excluded.
22/11/2017	MT093 4022	Presence of granulomatous lesions with caseous material affecting mediastinal lymph nodes. Inflammatory reaction in other groups of lymph nodes.	Condemned as not fit for human consumption, since generalization could not be excluded.

CONFIRMATION FROM IZSLER

- On the 3rd November 2017 the Veterinary Regulation Directorate received a positive and definitive confirmation from the laboratory IZSLER of Brescia that 3 out of 4 samples sent in August were positive to *Micobacterium tuberculosis Bovis*.
- *The EU Commission was informed and notification via WAHIS was carried out*

THE SECOND FARM

- On 1st February 2018, positivity on 3 animals and dubious results on other 2 were detected at the premises of another farm
- Request for testing of all workers/family members within the farm for TBC was immediately initiated.
- Positive and dubious animals were slaughtered on Tuesday 13th February.
- No lesions and/or inflamed tissues were observed. All carcasses slaughtered were declared fit for human consumption.
- Nevertheless samples were taken for further analysis to be carried out at IZSLER.

FARM 2 LOCATION



MEASURES IN PUT IN PLACE BY VRD IN LINE WITH LOCAL LEGISLATION, TO BE TAKEN FOR THE ERADICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

Risk Factor	Extent of risk	Comments
Movement of animals from positive farms to other farms	Very low	Movements are stopped except for animals going to the slaughterhouse
Movement of animals from positive farms to abattoir	Very low	Slaughtering from these farms are only carried out on pre-determined dates where official controls on anti-mortem and post-mortem is thoroughly carried out. The Abattoir also has all the bio-security measures in place.
Supply of milk to collection centre	Low	Milk from positive/ dubious cows was disposed immediately. Provisions laid down in Regulation 853/2004 are all in place and being closely monitored by VRD.
Movement of manure	Low	Measures were immediately put in place by VRD for the prohibition of movement of manure from the farm. The two farms are obliged to treat the manure as per VRD's instructions.

THANK YOU