



LSD/BT outbreak investigation

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An outbreak investigation should prioritise following questions (EuFMD, 2017):

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- How long the disease has been present,
- Magnitude of the problem: count cases, define epidemiological units and population at risk,
- Possible sources of infection and
- What movements of animals, people, vehicles or other fomites could have spread the disease?

Include following data into an outbreak investigation (1):

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- Number of animals in the herd, number of suspected animals, estimated age of the lesion(s)
- Origin, age, sex, breed, production type and vaccination status of suspected animal;
- Contacts with other herds and use of communal grazing; contacts with wild ruminants

Include following data into an outbreak investigation (2):

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- Cattle movement records - new animals recently introduced into a herd and from where; Animals that have left the herd and to where;
- Movement of animal care staff and other visitors;
- Recent veterinary treatments and cattle health records;





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Include following data into an outbreak investigation (3):

- Artificial inseminator visits and use of a breeding bull;
- Milk collection vehicle;
- Animal trader/slaughterhouse transport vehicle visits and track the farms visited before and after;
- Potential vector activity, presence of vector breeding sites such as lakes, rivers;
- Record roads, other geographic and climatic data;
- A survey of the premises should be made – removal of potential vector breeding sites.

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Steps for clinical examination (EuFMD)

It is important to have a systematic approach to examining animals. Write down your findings as you examine animals. A prepared form may help you do this efficiently.

3. Carry out a clinical examination of as many animals as possible to fully assess the situation:

- Take the animal's temperature
- Examine for lesions
- Enquire about milk yield if appropriate
- Record your findings for each animal, including animal identity no.

2. Observe animals from a distance: look for lesions, nodules, lameness, any abnormalities

1. Take a clinical history from the farmer:

- What clinical signs have they noticed?
- When did the signs start?
- Which animals have been affected? How many?
- Which ones are the most recent cases?

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Lesions aging

- Lesion ageing is important for epidemiological investigations to establish a likely time period in which clinical signs first appeared, and from this, the likely time period in which infection took place, and when viral shedding could have begun.
- When carrying out lesion ageing in order to determine the likely date of infection of a group of animals, it is important to examine all animals, looking for the oldest lesions.



Thanks for your attention