

FORTNIGHTLY e-BULLETIN: ANIMAL DISEASE INFORMATION OF BHUTAN*Information sharing for preparedness and response...*

DoL

National Centre for Animal Health
Department of Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Serbithang, Thimphu



To update field colleagues and relevant stakeholders regarding animal disease situations in the country and related activities, the "Fortnightly e-Bulletin on Animal Disease Information of Bhutan" is issued by the Disease Prevention and Control Unit (DPCU), National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH), Department of Livestock (DoL). The information disseminated regarding animal disease outbreak(s) in the country is based on flash and follow-up reports received from the outbreak investigation team. For real-time update, please visit our website, <http://www.ncah.gov.bt>

Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag**Saephu Gewog****Black Quarter – 21 September 2021***

Black quarter (BQ) is an acute, infectious disease caused by *Clostridium chauvoei*, a Gram-positive, anaerobic organism. This disease is characterized by inflammation with gaseous oedema of skeletal muscle and severe toxæmia.

An outbreak of BQ was reported in a migratory cattle herd located in Phenchemeri (near Rukubji), Saephu gewog, Wangdue Phodrang dzongkhag on 21 September 2021.

As per the flash report shared, the outbreak which started on 16 September has affected 9 young cattle, of which 5 died. The herd was said to have received HS-BQ vaccination during the annual vaccination program in Zhemgang during migration.

All the necessary control measures, including ring vaccination of the susceptible herd, have been implemented by the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector.

Early warning and preparedness to prevent LSD outbreaks

Considering the epidemiology of the Lumpy skin disease (LSD), the risk for incursion and spread remains high, especially in the areas stretching across the southern belt (Samtse in the west to Trashigang in the East), sharing a porous border with India, experiencing hot and humid climate and increased fly (mechanical vector for LSD) activity.

LSD prevention and control measures shall be implemented as described in the advisory table below.

Table 1: Advisory on Lumpy skin disease (LSD) prevention and control

| Measures | Remarks |
|--|--|
| <i>Uninfected dzongkhag/ premises</i> | |
| Farm biosecurity enhancement | In collaboration with the BAFRA office. |
| Vector control | Use of insect repellents and ectoparasiticides, improve farm sanitation and hygiene, good manure management, etc. |
| Restriction on cattle (migratory or trade) and their products' movement from infected areas. | Practice until the ban is lifted in the affected and surrounding areas. |
| Enhance disease surveillance | To ensure early detection and prevent further spread. Surveillance is to be heightened during summer (fly season) and when outbreaks are reported from nearby areas. |
| Wearing minimal PPE when visiting farms | At least a shoe cover to prevent mechanical transmission. |
| <i>Infected dzongkhag/ premises or suspicion of disease presence</i> | |
| Restriction of movement of cattle and buffaloes in infected areas | Until the outbreak ends, and bans lifted. |
| Restriction of movement of cattle and buffalo products from infected to uninfected areas. | Until the outbreak ends, and bans lifted. |
| Isolation and treatment of affected animals. | Supportive or symptomatic treatment |
| Proper disposal (deep burial) of carcasses and disinfection of contaminated premises. | Consumption shall not be permitted. Phenol and Hypochlorite (bleaching powder) are effective against LSDV |
| Active surveillance | Risk-based surveillance for early detection, immediate interventions and prevent further spread. |
| Vector control | Use of insect repellents and ectoparasiticides, improve farm sanitation and hygiene, good manure management, etc. |
| Farm biosecurity enhancement | In collaboration with the BAFRA office. |
| Using PPE while visiting affected (suspected) farms | Plastic apron, gloves, shoe covers, etc. |
| Prevention of iatrogenic spread of infection | Mandatory change of needle between animals during vaccinations/ treatments, or sterilize the reusable needles. |

* Reported to the National Centre for Animal Health, Serbithang



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