

Date: 15 AUG 2022

BTv ZONE MAP CHANGE PROPOSAL

Purpose

1. To **NOTIFY** the NAMP Technical Panel that bluetongue virus transmission is confirmed in an unexpected location.
 2. To seek **ENDORSEMENT** from the NAMP Technical Panel for a proposed change to the bluetongue virus zone map.
 3. To seek **ENDORSEMENT** from the NAMP Technical Panel for the proposed text to be used in the email alert notification.
- To seek **ENDORSEMENT** for **EXPANSION** of the BTV transmission zone in the North-West Slopes and Central West regions of NSW and corresponding text for the email alert notification (see below).

Description (to be accompanied by the proposed amended zone map(s) as Attachment(s))

- Following the detection of BTV seroconversions near Mudgee and expansion of the BTV transmission some end of season serosurveillance bleeds were undertaken to ensure the BTV transmission zone was defensible in the Central-West region of NSW as animals are regularly sourced for BTV sensitive markets in this region. BTV seropositive and PCR positive animals were detected at Dunedoo (N375).
 - Following the detection of BTV seroconversions near Pilliga a serosurveillance bleed was undertaken in the BTV Transmission free area between the QLD border and the BTV transmission north of the Pilliga herd. BTV seropositive and PCR positive animals were detected in the herd located about 50 km west of Moree (N374).
 - See Attachment A

Testing Results

- N374 (west of Moree – NW Sloped region) – 10 x 5.5-8 month old homebred cattle were sampled. 4/10 were seropositive for BTV antibodies and 5/10 were seropositive for Simbu group antibodies by ELISA. The pan-BTV PCR was positive for 3 animals (Ct=28.9, 31.5, 31.6). BTV 1 and 21 were detected by type specific PCR.
 - N375 – Dunedoo in the Central West of NSW – 12 x 12 month old homebred cattle were sampled. 2/12 were seropositive for BTV antibodies and 12/12 were seropositive for Simbu group antibodies. The pan-BTV PCR was positive for 1 animal (Ct=31.4) and BTV 1 was detected by type specific PCR.

Protocols (as per the Operational Plan)

Please check the box that applies and provide an explanation below for incomplete protocol steps.

Sample		Yes	No
Test results confirmed		X	☐
Sample identification confirmed		X	☐
Additional livestock testing		☐	X
Animal status confirmed		X	☐
Notification	Email	Phone	No
State/Territory CVO	X	☐	☐
Biosecurity Australia	☐	☐	X
Livestock Exporters Association	☐	☐	X
AHA NAMP Manager	X	☐	☐

Details

- Local District vets in both regions were advised that the zone change would be discussed at NAMP TC Meeting in August and that zone change would likely apply from late August 2022 and to be aware re any certification BTV zone certifications.

Issues for Discussion (if applicable)

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Email alert notification - Proposed text

Dear NAMP Bluetongue Zoning Map user,

This is an automated message to notify you that the Australian bluetongue zoning map has been updated.

Please go to

http://namp.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/public.php?page=namp_public&program=2 to view or download the current version of the map.

[To be modified or equivalent text provided by State Coordinator:

During routine monitoring, evidence of bluetongue virus infection has been detected in NAMP serosurvey herds in the North West Slopes and Central West regions of NSW. These detections have resulted in an expansion of the zone of possible transmission in these regions of NSW. There is no evidence of clinical disease associated with these infections.

Although bluetongue viruses are present in northern and eastern Australia, clinical disease has never been reported in commercial sheep, cattle or any other susceptible animal species in Australia. Bluetongue surveillance and zoning is conducted under the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP), managed by Animal Health Australia. Further information about NAMP and bluetongue virus zoning in Australia can be found at:

<http://namp.animalhealthaustralia.com.au>.

Recommendations

That the NAMP Technical Panel:

1. **ENDORSES** the proposed change to the bluetongue virus zone map as shown in Attachment A and available on *NAMPInfo*.
2. **ENDORSES** the proposed text to be used in the email alert notification.

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Author

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Attachment A – NSW Zone change proposal – 15AUG2022

