

Parma, 3 May 2012

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

Web minutes of the 6th AHAW Network meeting on the request for technical assistance on Schmallenberg virus

3 May 2012 (11:00-12:00 h) - teleconference

EFSA / AHAW

Participants

External experts: Estelle Meroc, Yves Van der Stede, Claude Saegerman, Rene Bødker, Luis Romero Gonzalez, Ulla Rikula, Robert Kocsis, Paolo Calistri, Wim Ooms, Wim van der Poel, Armin Elbers, Marcel Spierenburg, Ulla Carlsson, Alasdair Cook, Helen Roberts, Trevor Drew

DG SANCO: Francesco Berlingieri

ECDC: Katrin Leitmeyer

EFSA: Ana Afonso (Chair), Katriina Willgert, Jose Cortinas Abrahantes, Jane Richardson

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without any additional changes.

3. Discussions

Adoption of previous meeting minutes (4/4/2012)

Update of EFSA activities

For the update of the epidemiological situation of “Schmallenberg” virus (SBV) in April, EFSA received data from seven countries with confirmed SBV cases and four countries with suspect SBV cases. EFSA would like to thank all involved partners for their effort.

The updated report of the epidemiological data provides an overview of the temporal and spatial distribution of SBV. Based on the time of birth of malformed offspring, it seems like viral circulation took place up until December 2011. With the exception of the eight PCR positive cases in adult in autumn 2011, there have been no new confirmed acute cases in adult animals. A comparison between suspected herd patterns and confirmed herd patterns for each species showed that there is a higher confirmation rate of suspect cases for sheep than for cattle. To estimate the impact of SBV, details on the number of arthrogryposis

hydranencephaly syndrome (AHS) cases within a herd and the number of animals tested within the herd would be required.

The next deadline for SBV data submission will be on 10 May 2012. The submitted data will support EFSA in the assessment of the overall impact of SBV on animal health, production and animal welfare. In order to make a better assessment of the impact of SBV, especially within herds, reporting officers are encouraged to provide information from herds that have been followed up for the next data reporting.

Furthermore, as the timing of the birthing season can vary a lot between different Member States, EFSA has requested calving and lambing data from Member States to be used in the overall assessment of the impact of SBV. The data can be given as raw data or as the proportion of offspring born for each month estimated by expert opinion.

There will be a meeting with a subgroup of the AHAW Network to discuss epidemiological aspects of SBV on 11 May 2012.

Update from ECDC

Update from DG SANCO

Update of activities in Member States

MS reported national SBV situations and ongoing activities. In most countries, it seems like the epidemic curve is coming to an end.

Concern was expressed regarding the case definition of a confirmed herd. Serological results indicate that relying on PCR for confirmation of cases will result in an underestimation of the rate of infection. However, the application of different case definitions as diagnostic methods become available could lead to discrepancy in time as well as between Member States. The potential need for a review of the case definition should be discussed on the 11th of May.

4. Future meetings

The teleconferences with the AHAW network have been very useful for information sharing, communication and support. As the epidemic curve for this season seems to be coming to an end it was agreed that regular updates in the form of teleconferences are not necessary. The use of the AHAW Network regarding SBV as well as European preparedness to other emerging animal health risks should be discussed in more detail at the meeting on the 11th of May.

5. Pending actions