

Summary

Advice 05-2007 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the control of Bluetongue by the use of insecticides

This advice concerns the scientific evaluation of proposed measures for the control of Bluetongue by the use of insecticides.

The Scientific Committee recommends to treat, in 2007, domesticated ruminants and ruminants in animal parks, especially cattle and sheep, and the transport vehicles, with pyrethronoïd insecticides. It recommends a preventive treatment of the animals on the entire territory when the Culicoïdes resume their activity in the spring and also a systematic treatment of the animals in the risk areas around new outbreaks.

The Scientific Committee is fully aware that the effectiveness of the use of insecticides on a large scale is not yet experimentally proven. The Scientific Committee motivates its proposal because it is the only possibility to try to interrupt the virus transfer cycle with a one shot treatment and this before the activity of the Culicoïdes increases again, and because of the lack of other control measures. If, in spite of this treatment, the Bluetongue serotype 8 epidemia re-emerges in 2007, then the efficiency of the proposed preventive treatment will have to be re-evaluated. It is hoped that in the meantime an inactivated and specific vaccine will be developed to control the infection.

The Scientific Committee also refers to the problem of the development of resistance to insecticides and the presence of residues.

These recommendations will have to be adapted according to the development of the knowledge concerning different types of Culicoïdes vectors and their biology.

The full text is available on <http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/wetenschappelijkcomite/adviezen/2007.asp> in French and Dutch.