

Advice 26-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the evaluation of an alleviated bovine brucellosis and leucosis surveillance and on propositions for a new surveillance program of other bovine diseases.

Belgium can benefit from an alleviation of the surveillance programs for bovine brucellosis and leucosis, since the country is officially free of these two diseases and has not observed any new case since more than 5 years. It is asked to the Scientific Committee to evaluate (1) a report containing propositions for alleviation of these surveillance programs aimed to maintain an optimal sensibility for detection of an eventual re-introduction, and (2) a project of royal decree aiming to implement the conclusions of the report. The Scientific Committee agrees with the conclusions of the report and approves the project of royal decree.

Concerning the new alleviated surveillance program for brucellosis and leucosis, the Scientific Committee (3) formulates a proposal targeted at the monitoring of several bovine populations at risk.

It is also asked to the Scientific Committee to (4) formulate recommendations relative to the winter sampling (blood and serum) program 2009/2010, aiming at the surveillance of Bluetongue and other bovine diseases, and at the constitution of a serum bank. The Committee emits several recommendations, namely concerning the random sampling to be applied.

Finally, it is asked to the Committee to (5) make up a prioritized and documented list of other animal diseases, classified per animal species, which can be the subject of further analyses. The Scientific Committee proposes a list of bovine diseases accompanied by justifications, objectives, test(s) to apply, age categories and type of production to target, and sampling frequencies. Options concerning the sampling size (number of exploitations to be sampled and number of animals to be sampled per exploitation) are also emitted. Propositions concerning diseases of other animal species and other matrices, which necessitate a more profound reflection, will be formulated in a next advice.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".