

Rescue in the case of diseases



Summary from the presentations of Willem Drovers, OIE, Maria Pittmann, DG SANCO and Stephen Hall, DEFRA NSC FAnGR

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International Organisations and Rules

OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)

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- “Common” rules for the main diseases

National Action Plan in UK

Relevant International Organisations and Rules

**OIE (Office International des Epizooties) =
World Organisation for Animal Health (established 1924):**

Objectives:

- ensure transparency in global animal health situation
- collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information concerning animal diseases
- contribute expertise and encourage coordinated approach to disease outbreaks
- improve veterinary services within its WTO mandate, safeguard world trade through animal health standards
- animal welfare and animal production food safe



OIE: Standards

- WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS Agreement) recognises OIE as a reference organisation for international standards
- Terrestrial Animal Health Code – mammals, birds and bees (www.oie.int)



OIE: Standards

- sanitary measures to be used by veterinary or other competent authorities faced with animal diseases including zoonoses
- health regulations, including surveillance guidelines, to prevent importations of pathogens, including those transmissible to humans, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers
- diagnostic methods to be used by laboratories
 - quality criteria for vaccines
 - how to collect and process semen and embryos



OIE: Measures within an outbreak of a disease

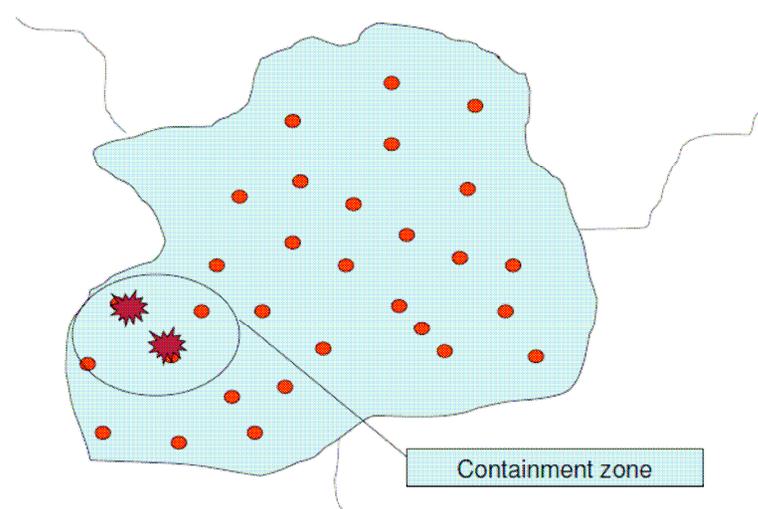
- Preventive Measures
 - Intensive surveillance
 - Biosecurity measures
 - Vaccination
 - Zoning and Compartmentalisation
- “stamping out” necessary, when
 - Disease outbreak of significant public health implication
 - pandemic potential
 - Early stages of a disease of rapid spread
 - Conditions seriously affecting animal welfare

OIE: Measures within an outbreak of a disease

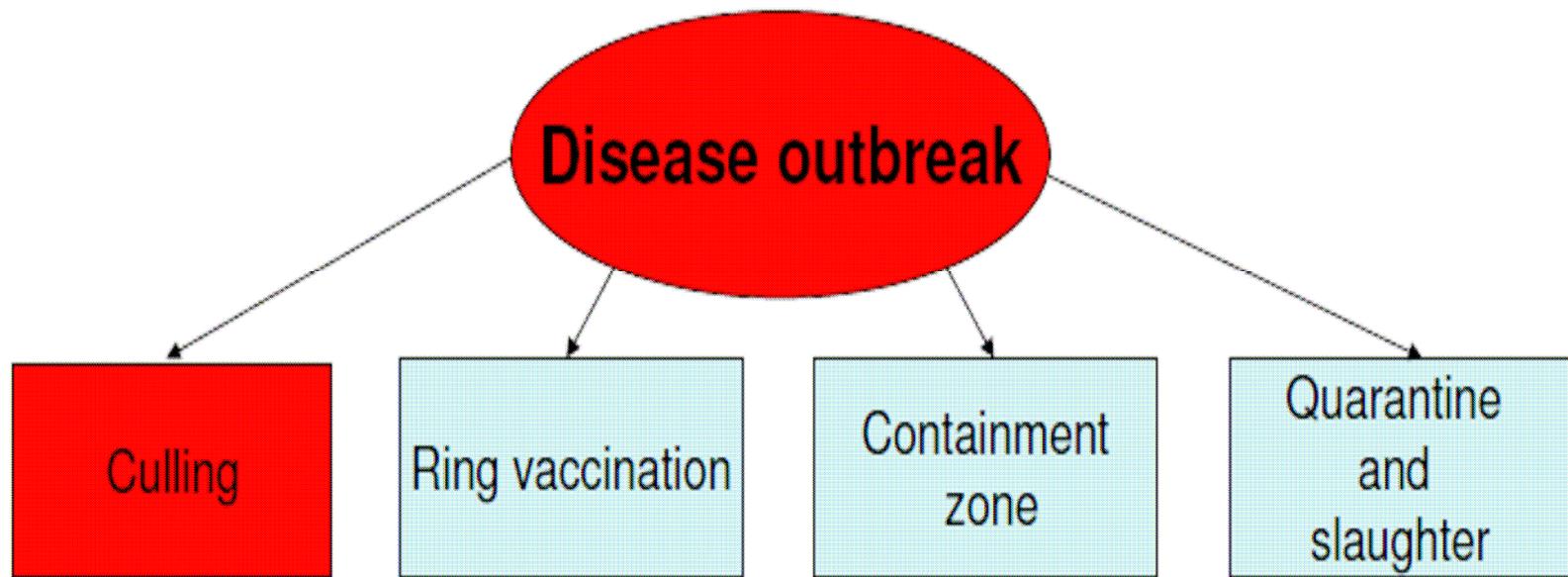
■ Preventing culling

- Early detection and response
- Containment zone
- Ring vaccination
- Quarantine

(followed by on time slaughter)



OIE: Mechanism of Prevention



OIE: Needs

- Good veterinary governance and the ability to detect emerging diseases
- Veterinary Services need a communication strategy to increase the awareness and consumer confidence
- Coordination between Ministries by transfer of the right message on public health and food safety
- Improvement of the private-public partnership

OIE: Possibilities for Rare Breeds

- Vaccination
- Compartmentalisation



EU: Animal Health Legislation

EU legislation and new tools for disease control and rare breeds

- there is no unique definition for “rare breeds” in EU legislation
- the “old” FMD Directive 85/511/EEC already referred to the need of protection special breeds as a criterion to decide the introduction of emergency vaccination
- Now more specific provisions for rare breeds are included in several disease control directives

EU: Animal Health Legislation

Example FMD

- emergency vaccination shall take into account the presence of farm animal genetic resources on the premises
- specific provisions for farm animal resources that have been listed by the competent authority as “breeding nucleus of animals indispensable for the survival of the breed” may be adopted by the Commission to allow a derogation from the prohibition of dispatch of vaccinated animals to other Member States

EU: Animal Health Legislation

“Common” rules for the main diseases

It is essential - but not always spelled out - that:

- “agreed establishments of nucleus herds” (FMD)
- “officially registered rare breeds of poultry or other captive birds” (AI)

EU: Animal Health Legislation

- premises keeping rare animal breeds (CSF, ASF): They need to be identified and listed by the Member States before an outbreak
- the list of premises must be included in the disease contingency plans
- this requires a close co-operation between keepers and authorities

EU: Animal Health Legislation

“Common” rules for the main diseases

- proper traceability of animal movements must be ensured; in case of ruminants by individual identification
- stringent biosecurity rules must be applied and restrictions on movements strictly followed, so that specific provisions for rare breeds including a possible derogation from killing in the event of a disease outbreak “do not endanger disease control”.

National Action Plan: United Kingdom

History of Defra National Standing Committee for Farm Animal Genetic Resources

- “meetings of interested parties” about farm animal genetic resources starting in 1995
- December 2001 – Consultative Committee to prepare UK submission to FAO “State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources”
- National Steering Committee to prepare an Action Plan for Farm Animal Genetic Resources which was published in November 2006



National Action Plan: United Kingdom

National Action Plan – recommended actions (n=38)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/livestock/strategy/genetic-res/pdf/fangr-actionplan.pdf>

- A set of actions towards identifying & monitoring UK native breeds, their breed structures, and risks to their genetic composition. Includes recommendations for phenotypic and molecular-genetic characterisation.
- Recommended action no. 13 – seeks to define “a breeding nucleus essential to the survival of the breed” and to identify “breeds at risk as a result of geographical concentration”.

National Action Plan: United Kingdom

Current issues

- Priority lists, nucleus flocks/herds, geographical concentration
- Breeds At Risk Register
- National Scrapie Plan Sheep semen Archive
- Bluetongue virus (BTV)
- Agri-environment schemes and native breeds



National Action Plan: United Kingdom

Breeds at Risk Register

- FMD Directive 2003/85/EC provides for special measures for the protection of breeds at risk through the protection of nucleus populations identified ahead of the epidemic



National Action Plan: United Kingdom

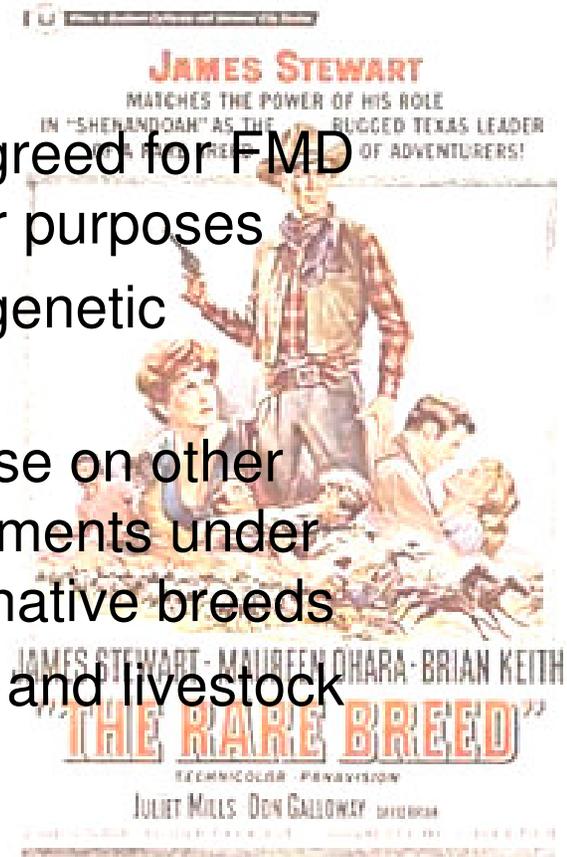
Breeds at Risk Register

- In the event of an outbreak – if responsible officer is required to cull a flock/herd that appears in the official register the officer may at his/her discretion place the nucleus in a strict quarantine rather than cull it
- A standardised list of breeds at risk is agreed for FMD but several other lists also exist for other purposes

National Action Plan: United Kingdom

Conclusion

- A standardised list of breeds at risk is agreed for FMD but several other lists also exist for other purposes
- Government resources for farm animal genetic resource conservation are very limited
- Opportunities are being taken to capitalise on other initiatives (agri-environment, UK commitments under Convention on Biodiversity) to promote native breeds
- Defra working in partnership with NGOs and livestock charities when possible



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