

# Monitoring

## Animal Health

## Cattle

### Highlights, Fourth Quarter 2018

#### Dutch herds fourth quarter 2018

**Dairy farms:** in the fourth quarter of 2018, there were 16,052 dairy farms in the Netherlands (see Figure 1). On average, Dutch dairy farms had 99 animals older than two years. The average production per cow in 305 days was 8706 kg with 4.36 percent fat and 3.57 percent protein (CRV 2017). The average bulk milk cell count was 174,000/ml. 98 percent of the farms were leptospirosis-free, 77 percent had IBR-free or IBR-unsuspected status; 76 percent had BVD-free and BVD-unsuspected status, 97 percent were salmonella-unsuspected (Qlip) and 76 percent were para TBC-unsuspected.

**Non-dairy farms:** In the fourth quarter of 2018, there were 17,239 non-dairy farms in the Netherlands (see Figure 1). In the fourth quarter of 2018, the average farm size per category was: small-scale farms had 5 cows, young stock rearing farms had 59 animals and suckler cow farms had 31 adult cows. On average, veal farms had 476 animals. 37 percent of the farms were leptospirosis-free, 21 percent were IBR-free and 17 percent were BVD-free.

#### Short news

- GD Animal Health conducted bluetongue screening for the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in 2018. No animals had antibodies, so the Netherlands retains its BTV-free status. Since December, an infection with BTV-8 was detected serologically in two animals in south-west Germany (Baden-Württemberg area, bordering on France). This is the first outbreak in Germany since 2009.
- The Dutch dairy farming sector has begun a compulsory campaign to control BVD and IBR. The percentage of dairy farms with BVD-free or BVD-unsuspected status increased from 59 percent (2017-4) to 76 percent at the end of 2018. The percentage of dairy farms with IBR-free or IBR-unsuspected status increased from 67 percent (2017-4) to 77 percent.

*Read more on the next page*

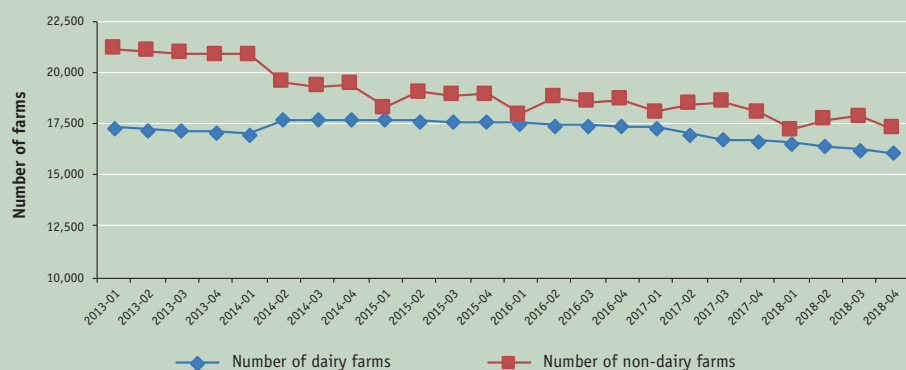


Figure 1. Number of dairy and non-dairy farms in the Netherlands

#### Bulk milk monitoring and cluster Central Netherlands and Noord-Holland

The weekly syndrome monitoring on bulk milk supply data is a monitoring instrument that detects areas in the Netherlands with lower-than-expected milk production. The purpose of this instrument is early detection of infectious diseases that cause a drop in milk

production. In November and December 2018, lower-than-expected milk production was detected in various weeks (Figure 2). Over a period of six consecutive weeks, from 12 November through 23 December 2018, an area in the central Netherlands was detected to

The information used for the surveillance is collected from different sources. The initiative comes in part from veterinarians and farmers, and partly from GD Animal Health. The information is fully interpreted to achieve the objectives of the surveillance programme: the rapid identification of health problems on the one hand and the following of more general trends and developments on the other. The livestock farming sector consisting of the Dutch inter-branch organisations DairyNL (ZuivelNL) and the Calf Industry Association (SBK) and the Ministry for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality are co-financing the surveillance programme.

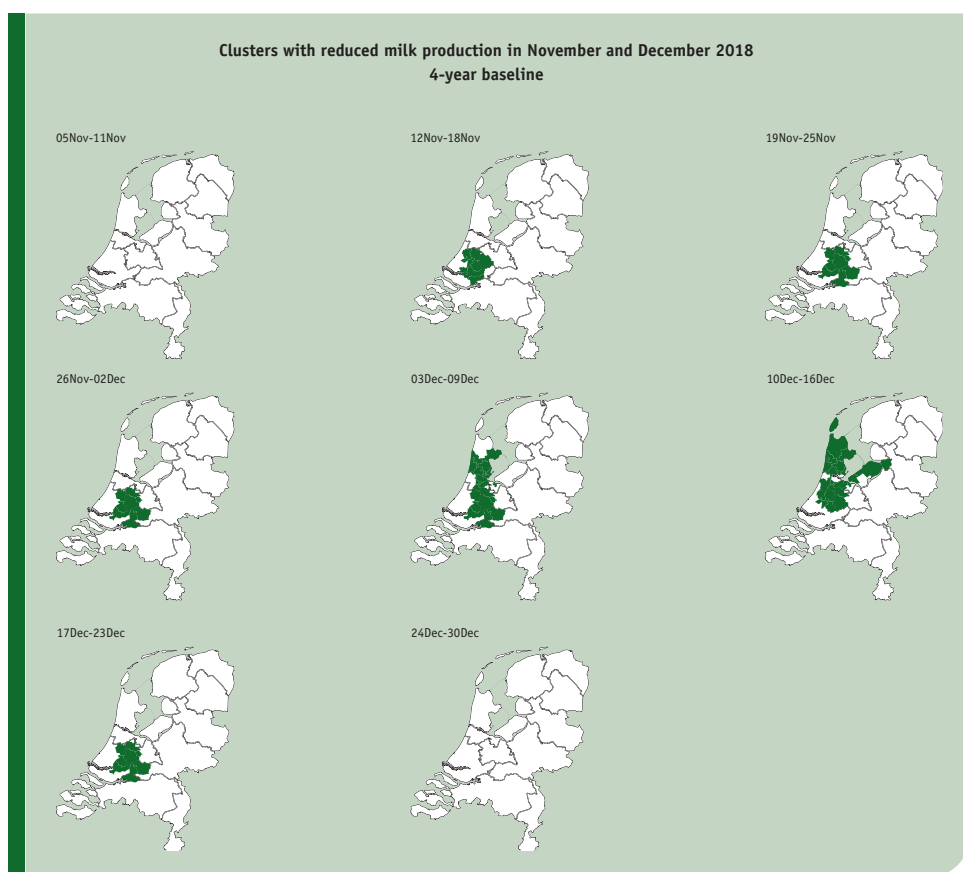


have lower-than-expected milk production. In the weeks from 3 December through 16 December, this area extended to the province of Noord-Holland. In these areas, milk production was on average 0.5 to 1.2 litres per cow per day lower than expected, based on the previous four years. These signals were discussed in the Weekijker meeting and contact was sought with a veterinary practice in the area where the decline began. This practice confirmed that they had indeed received

comments from dairy farmers regarding lower milk production in the months of November and December 2018. No symptoms were apparent at these farms. The veterinarians in question indicated that the lower milk production was 'probably' due to the cows being outdoors longer (until early December, grass with little nutritional value and less structure) and the poorer quality of silage versus previous years, due to the extreme dry summer of 2018.

## Short news *continued*

- Recirculation of the Schmallenberg virus has been detected in 2018, with clinical presentation in young cows. A number of young cows produced deformed calves, some of which already had antibodies to SBV prior to colostrum uptake.
- Outbreaks of pleuropneumonia caused by *Mannheimia haemolytica* were once again detected during this indoor housing season.



**Figure 2** Areas with lower-than-expected milk production (coloured green) in the Netherlands, from 5 November 2018 through 30 December 2018





## Animal Health Situation in the Netherlands

ANIMAL DISEASE	DUTCH SITUATION	Surveillance – Highlights Fourth Quarter 2018
<b>Article 15 GWWD (Health &amp; Welfare Act) diseases (diseases named in articles 2-8 of the 'Rules for prevention, control and monitoring of infectious animal diseases and zoonoses and TSEs')</b>		
Bluetongue	Officially free since 2012 (all serotypes). Annual screening.	The Netherlands BTV-free, no suspicious cases.
Brucellosis	Officially free since 1999. Monitoring via blood samples from aborting cows.	No infections detected.
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)	No cases detected upon monitoring since 2010 (total 88 cases from 1997-2009). OIE-status: 'negligible risk'.	No infections detected.
Leucosis (EBL)	Officially free since 1999. Monitoring via bulk milk and blood samples from slaughtered cattle.	No infections detected.
Lumpy skin disease (LSD)	Officially free.	Infections have never been detected.
Anthrax	Not detected since 1994. Monitoring via blood smears from fallen stock.	No infections detected.
Foot and mouth disease (FMD)	Officially free since 2001, last regional outbreaks in 1986 and 2001.	No infections detected.
Rabies	Officially free since 2012.	No infections detected.
Bovine tuberculosis (TBC)	Officially free since 1999.	No infections detected.
<b>Article 100 GWWD (Health &amp; Welfare Act) diseases (diseases named in article 10 of the 'Rules for prevention, control and monitoring of infectious animal diseases and zoonoses and TSEs')</b>		
<i>Campylobacter fetus</i> ssp. <i>venerealis</i> and <i>Trichomonas foetus</i>	Free since 2009. Monitoring of AI and embryo stations, and in animals for export.	No infections detected.
Leptospirosis	0.8 percent of non-dairy farms had animals with antibodies*.	98 percent of dairy farms had the <i>L. hardjo</i> -free status. No infections detected during bulk milk monitoring (ELISA).
Listeriosis	Occasionally detected as pathogen.	Two infections detected in aborted fetuses. One infection detected in a milk sample.
Salmonellosis	9.5 percent of non-dairy farms had animals with antibodies*.	95 percent of dairy farms had favourable results in the third quarter of 2018 (national programme)
Yersiniosis	Detected occasionally in cattle, mostly in aborted fetuses.	No infections detected.



Table continuation

ANIMAL DISEASE	DUTCH SITUATION	Surveillance – Highlights Fourth Quarter 2018
<b>Other OIE-list diseases in the Netherlands subject to compulsory reporting</b>		
Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)	8.7 percent of dairy farms had an indication of recent BVD-virus circulation**. 14.5 percent of non-dairy farms had a recent BVD-virus circulation**.	76 percent of dairy farms had BVD-free or BVD-unsuspected status. This was 17 percent among non-dairy farms.
Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)	15.6 percent of dairy farms had IBR antibodies in bulk milk**. The estimated prevalence at non-dairy farms was 9.6 percent**.	77 percent of dairy farms had IBR-free or IBR-unsuspected status. This was 21 percent among non-dairy farms. Nose swaps at 38 farms: the field strain was detected at 3 farms.
Paratuberculosis	99 percent of dairy farms have PPN (Paratuberculosis Programme Netherlands) status.	76 percent of dairy farms have PPN status A (unsuspected).
Tick borne diseases	Ticks infected with <i>Babesia divergens</i> , <i>Anaplasma phagocytophilia</i> and <i>Mycoplasma wenyonii</i> are present in the Netherlands.	No infections detected.
<b>Other infectious diseases in cattle</b>		
Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF)	Infections with Ovine herpes virus type 2 occur occasionally.	No infections detected at necropsy.
Liver fluke	Liver fluke is present in the Netherlands, particularly in wetland areas.	Infections detected at 84 farms (few). Liver fluke prognosis: few infections expected, due to lengthy dry period.
Neosporosis	Important infectious cause of abortions.	Infections detected in 6 percent of submitted aborted fetuses.
Q-fever	74 percent of dairy farms had antibodies in bulk milk***.	No infections detected in aborted fetuses.

\* Final Report Specific Surveillance 2013-2014; prevalence studies

\*\* Final Report Specific Surveillance 2015-2016; prevalence studies

\*\*\* Final Report Specific Surveillance 2017-2018; prevalence study

