

NDCC Disease Update 1 of 2025- Lumpy Skin Disease

1. What is Lumpy Skin Disease?

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is caused by lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV). It is a highly contagious disease of cattle characterized by fever, nodules on the skin, mucous membranes and internal organs, emaciation, enlarged lymph nodes, oedema of the skin, and sometimes death.

The principal means of transmission is by insect vectors (i.e. mosquitoes, ticks, stable flies, horseflies and horn flies). The vectors capable of transmitting the disease are more prevalent in Ireland during warmer weather.

2. Current situation in the EU

LSD has never been reported in Ireland.

The disease is endemic in most of Africa, parts of the Middle East and Turkey. In 2012 it spread from the Middle East to south-east Europe, affecting EU Member States (Greece and Bulgaria).

In 2024, LSD cases emerged in North African countries (Libya, followed by Algeria and Tunisia).

1. On the 21st of June 2025, the first case since 2017 was confirmed in the EU, specifically in the **Italian island of Sardinia**. Since then, 52 more outbreaks have been confirmed in Sardinia.
2. On the 25th of June, one case was confirmed in **Lombardy** (Italy) as a result of movement of animals from Sardinia.
3. On the 29th of June, one case was confirmed in **Auvergne- Rhône-Alpes region in France**, close to the borders with Northern Italy and Switzerland. Since then, 76 more outbreaks have been confirmed in the same region.



Figure 1: Location of LSD confirmed outbreaks since 21st June 2025 to date.

3. Measures introduced

- Protection and Surveillance zones of 20 km and 50 km respectively have been created around each outbreak farm for a minimum period of 28 - 45 days.
- Surveillance zones have been established in the border regions of Switzerland and Northern Italy.
- The entire region of Sardinia has been established as a restriction zone.
- Prohibition on movements of bovine animals from the affected areas.
- Emergency vaccination, started in July-August 2025:
 - **France** is vaccinating all establishments in the territory where LSD has been confirmed.
 - **Italy** is vaccinating animals in all establishments in the whole territory or Sardinia. In addition, Italy is vaccinating animals in the region with a common border with the affected French regions (Valle d'Aosta) to prevent the risk of introduction of LSD virus in the Valle D'Aosta region and the remaining country.

4. Clinical signs of Lumpy Skin Disease

A wide range of clinical signs are associated with LSD virus including:

- Fever that may exceed 41°C
- Marked reduction in milk yield in lactating cattle
- Depression, anorexia and emaciation
- Rhinitis, conjunctivitis and excessive salivation
- Enlarged superficial lymph nodes
- Cutaneous nodules of 2–5 cm in diameter develop, particularly on the head, neck, limbs, udder, genitalia and perineum within 48 hours of onset of the febrile reaction.

Photographs of LSD affected cattle



Figures 2-4: Skin nodules and enlarged lymph nodes



Figures 5-6: Conjunctivitis, nasal discharge, ulceration of lesions in muzzle



Figures 7-8: Skin nodules in udder and teats and ulceration of lesion in teat




Figure 9: Skin lesion with a scab attracting domestic flies

Photo acknowledgements: FAO (2017), LUMPY SKIN DISEASE - A field manual for veterinarians

5. Managing the Risk


There is a prohibition of movements of bovine animals, germinal products from bovine animals and unprocessed animal by-products from bovine animals other than milk, colostrum, dairy products and colostrum-based products intended for animal feed from establishments located in vaccination zones, until the recovery period. Movements from free areas (or areas where vaccination is not carried out) follow normal trade rules.

6. How to report a suspect outbreak of LSD virus:

Report a suspect to your  [Regional Veterinary Office](#) / National Disease Emergency Hotline on 01-492-8026 (outside of normal office hours) without delay.

BE VIGILANT FOR THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF LSD VIRUS AND REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS CASES TO DAFM IMMEDIATELY

7. Further information

 Further information on LSD virus is available at [Lumpy Skin Disease](#)

[Lumpy Skin Disease - WOAHA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

[Lumpy skin disease – A manual for veterinarians](#)

This update is designed to keep you informed and help protect Ireland's ruminant population and livelihoods. The cooperation of all stakeholders is crucial in the protection of the health and welfare of the Irish livestock industry.

National Disease Control Centre

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