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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
**Federal Food Safety and
Veterinary Office FSVO**
Animal Health

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Summary of the Report on Animal Disease Surveillance

Data for 2016

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Overall, more cases of diseases to be eradicated and controlled were recorded in 2016 than in 2015. In particular, cases of avian influenza in wild birds, bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) and European foulbrood were recorded more frequently.

In the case of BVD, more holdings suspected of infection from a known case were identified. In addition, intensive animal movements and a by now largely unprotected bovine population (no immunisation) in Switzerland today are contributing to the quick spread of the virus. As a result, single outbreaks affect more holdings than in previous years.

In the case of European foulbrood, around 50 more cases were discovered than in the previous year, most probably due to more inspections. But because the annual number of cases has been around 400 since 2013, the increase could also be due to a normal annual fluctuation.

The cases of avian influenza are part of a Europe-wide outbreak in wild birds which also led to cases in poultry in many countries, but not in Switzerland. In active monitoring of commercial poultry, aiming at the prompt detection of low pathogenic avian influenza in the healthy population, no antibodies to avian influenza were detected. Regarding Newcastle Disease, in 2016 two cases were reported in which ND antibodies were detectable in imported poultry.

In the salmonella surveillance programme in poultry, cases of *S. enteritidis* in laying hens were the main findings. The surveillance target was met again in 2016. Due to the change in the evaluation of these data, it is important to use the test request form automatically generated in the animal movement database (AMD) when stocking herds, to ensure that herd test results from the laboratory database can be correctly allocated to the relevant farms or herds.

In the 2016 reporting year, disease-free status was demonstrated for 25 major animal diseases. All surveillance programmes required under international treaties were successfully carried out.

In 2016, FSVO-recognised laboratories recorded a total of 295,081 animal disease investigations in the Alis laboratory information system, in relation to 69 epizootics. The coverage of testing was similar to that in the previous year. More than half (56 %) of all reported data were generated under the national surveillance programmes. These include programmes to control BVD, BSE and salmonella infection in poultry, as well as official surveys to demonstrate disease-free status for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL), bluetongue disease in cattle (BT), PRRS and brucellosis in small ruminants. The biggest change in the number of tests concerned caprine arthritis and encephalitis (CAE): the sharp increase in 2016 is due to the fact that – for the first time since the last census 2012 – goat farms were actively tested again using a random sample.