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Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft BLW

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## **Anhang C - Swiss Veterinary Service**

### **Based on the WOAHA Tool for the evaluation of performance of veterinary services (PVS Tool 2019)**

Mehrjähriger Nationaler Kontrollplan Schweiz  
und Fürstentum Liechtenstein 2020 - 2023

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As at	01.01.2023
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## Legal framework

<b>Federal Constitution</b>	
SR 101	Swiss Federal Constitution of 18 April 1999
<b>International Agreements</b>	
SR 0.916.026.81	Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community on trade of agricultural products
SR 0.631.112.514	Agreement between Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the connection of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Swiss customs territory
SR 0.916.443.959.81	Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Kingdom of Norway on measures of veterinary hygiene in the trade in live animals, their semen, ova and embryos as well as in animal products
SR 0.916.443.961.41	Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and New Zealand on measures of veterinary hygiene in the trade in live animals and animal products
<b>Federal acts</b>	
SR 453	Federal Act on the Trade in endangered Animal and Plant Species (FA-CITES)
SR 455	FDHA Ordinance on Training in Animal Husbandry and Handling of Animals (Animal Protection Training Ordinance, APTO)
SR 811.11	Federal Act on medical professions
SR 817.0	Federal Act on food and utility articles
SR 916.40	Epizootic Diseases Act (EzDA)
<b>Ordinances</b>	
SR 455.1	Ordinance on Animal Protection (AniPO)
SR 520.17	Ordinance on the organisation of the measures in NBCN events
SR 817.02	Ordinance on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (Foodstuffs Ordinance) (FSO)
SR 817.021.23	FDHA Ordinance on the Maximum Residue Levels for Pesticides in or on Products of Plant and Animal Origin (PestRO)
SR 817.022.13	Ordinance on Residues of Pharmacologically Active Substances and Feed Additives in Foodstuffs of Animal Origin (RAFO)
SR 817.022.15	FDHA Ordinance on the Maximum Levels for Contaminants (Contaminants Ordinance, ContO)
SR 817.042	Ordinance on the Implementation of Foodstuffs Legislation (FLIO)
SR 817.190	Ordinance on Slaughter and Meat Inspection (SMIO)
SR 817.190.1	FDHA Ordinance on hygienic slaughtering (SHyO)
SR 812.212.27	Ordinance on veterinary medicines
SR 910.15	Ordinance on coordination of inspections on farms
SR 916.020	Ordinance on primary production
SR 916.307	Ordinance on feed
SR 916.401	Ordinance on Epizootic Diseases (EzDO)
SR 916.402	Ordinance on the training, further training and continuing education of people in the public veterinary service
SR 916.404.1	Ordinance on the Database on Livestock Traffic (LTD Ordinance)
SR 916.408	Ordinance on information systems for the Veterinary Service
SR 916.441.22	Ordinance on Animal By-Products (ABO)
SR 916.443.10	Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in exchanges with Third Countries (ITEO-TC)
SR 916.443.106	FDHA Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in exchanges with Third Countries (ITEO-TC-FDHA)
SR 916.443.11	Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in exchanges with EU Member States, Iceland and Norway (ITEO-EU)
SR 916.443.111	FDHA Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in exchanges with EU Member States, Iceland and Norway (ITEO-EU-FDHA)
SR 919.117.71	Ordinance on information systems in the field of agriculture
SR 922.01	Ordinance on hunting and the protection of wild mammals and birds
SR 946.512	Ordinance on the Swiss Accreditation System and the designation of testing, conformity assessment, registration authorities

**General comments:**

These files contain basic information about the Swiss Veterinary Service. The data have been compiled based on the WOAHA Tool for the evaluation of performance of veterinary services (PVS Tool 2019) representing a nationwide self-evaluation of the Swiss Veterinary Service. The document is an annex to the MANCP, which in turn contains a lot of information about the official controls throughout the food chain.

English is not an official language in Switzerland. Consequently, most of the links to additional documents are not available in English and lead to the French or German version. Some of the documents are also available in Italian.

# 1 Country information

## 1.1 Political structure and consequences for the Swiss Veterinary Service

Switzerland consists of 20 cantons and 6 half-cantons (Figure 1). The cantons are the original states which formed the modern Swiss Confederation in 1848 and assigned part of their sovereignty to the Confederation. The Swiss Federal Constitution unified the coinage system and the system of weights and measures, and abolished the various internal customs duties. A single economic area was created. The cantons exercise all the rights, which are not conferred on the Federal government. Every canton and half-canton has its own constitution, its own parliament, its own government and its own courts.



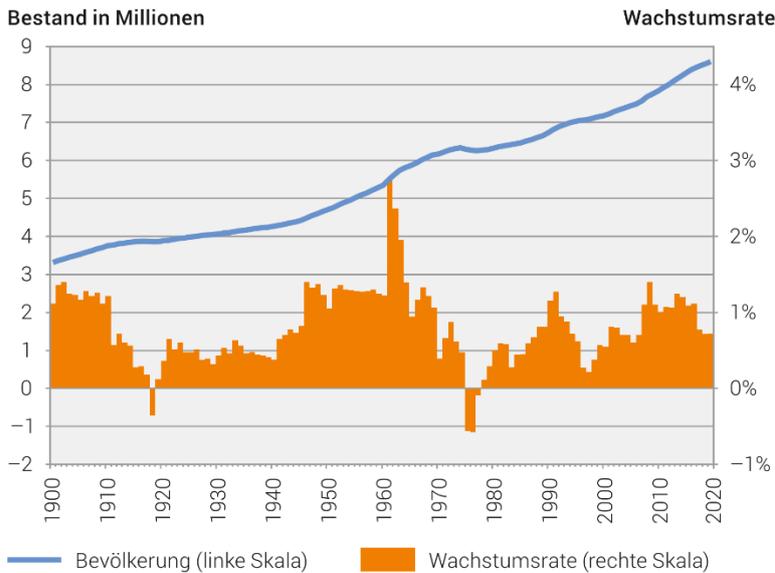
**Figure 1:** Map of Switzerland with its 26 cantons and half-cantons and its capitals

Peculiar to the Swiss Veterinary Service is its federally oriented organisation principle, which has its roots in the historical development of this confederation of largely autonomous cantons. Legislation pertaining to public health, animal health and animal welfare is issued by the central (federal) authorities, thus promoting (guaranteeing) the application of uniform principles and standards for public and animal health as well as for animal welfare measures nationwide. The role of the central authority is primarily to advise the cantons, to supply information and to support research and continuing education as well as to regulate conditions for import and export of animals, animal products and food, and provide border control for imports. The cantons are responsible for the implementation of the law and in the context of trade for the control and licensing of establishments that export animal products and for certification of exports of live animals and animal products.

## 1.2 Population

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the population of Switzerland has more than doubled: from 3.3 million (1900) to 8.73 million (2021). (source: <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/bevoelkerung/stand-entwicklung/bevoelkerung.html>)

## Bevölkerungswachstum und -bestand



Quellen: BFS – ESPOP, STATPOP, VZ

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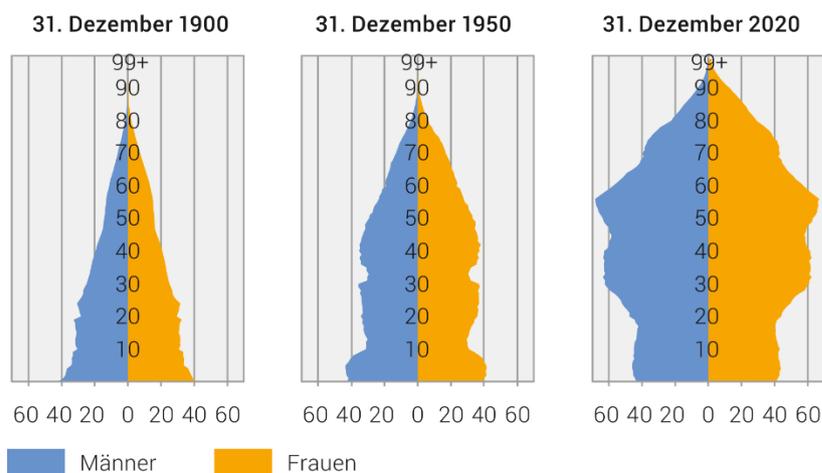
**Figure 2:** Population growth and size

Average population density in Switzerland is 208 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. However, the country's topography means that population distribution is uneven. Most people live on the Swiss Plateau. The majority of people in Switzerland live in urban areas. Some 85% of the population live in or on the outskirts of a town or city. Only 16% live in more rural areas. Nearly 40% of people live in one of the country's five biggest conurbations (Zurich, Geneva, Basle, Berne and Lausanne). (source: [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch))

The age structure of the population underwent fundamental change during the course of the 20th century. This demographic ageing process is a consequence of a rising life expectancy and, particularly, of a declining birth rate. The median age in 2019 was 42.6 years. (source: [www.bfs.admin.ch](http://www.bfs.admin.ch))

## Altersaufbau der Bevölkerung

Anzahl Personen in 1000



Quellen: BFS – STATPOP, VZ

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**Figure 3:** Structure of the population

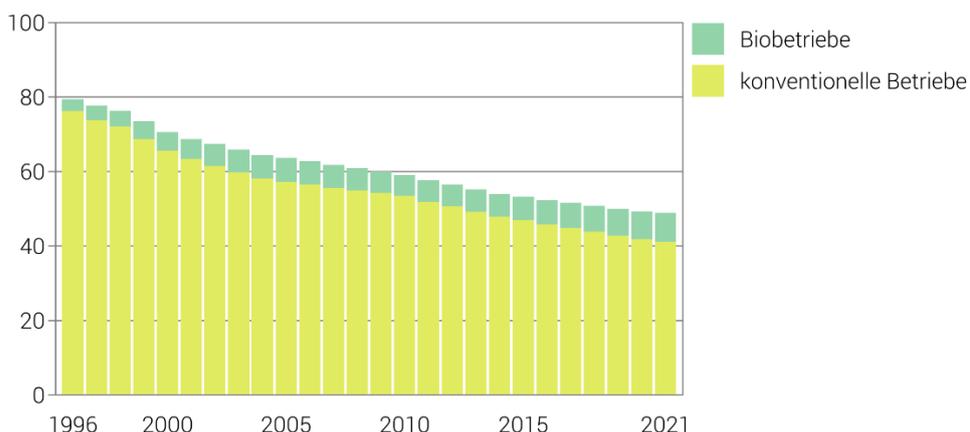
## 1.3 Agriculture sector

### 1.3.1 Structural changes

For many years, Swiss agriculture has been in a phase of structural change, resulting in a significant decrease in the number of farms and employees. In 2021, there were 48,864 farms in Switzerland, i.e. 2.34% fewer than in 2019 and since 2007 the number of farms decreased from 61,764 to 48,864. With 7,670 farms, organic farming continues to gain in importance.

#### Landwirtschaftsbetriebe, 1996-2021

Tausend Landwirtschaftsbetriebe



Quelle: BFS – Landwirtschaftliche Strukturerhebung

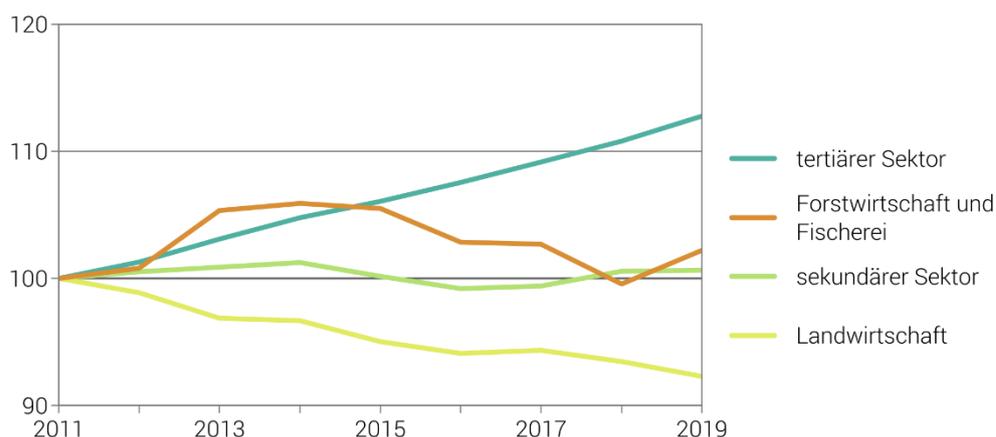
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**Figure 4:** Number of farms

Meanwhile, the cultivated area per farm increased and the number of people employed in agriculture decreased significantly, amounting to 150,231 persons in 2021; 44% of them are working full time <sup>1</sup>

#### Beschäftigte nach Wirtschaftssektor, 2011-2019

Index 2011 = 100



Quelle: BFS – STATENT

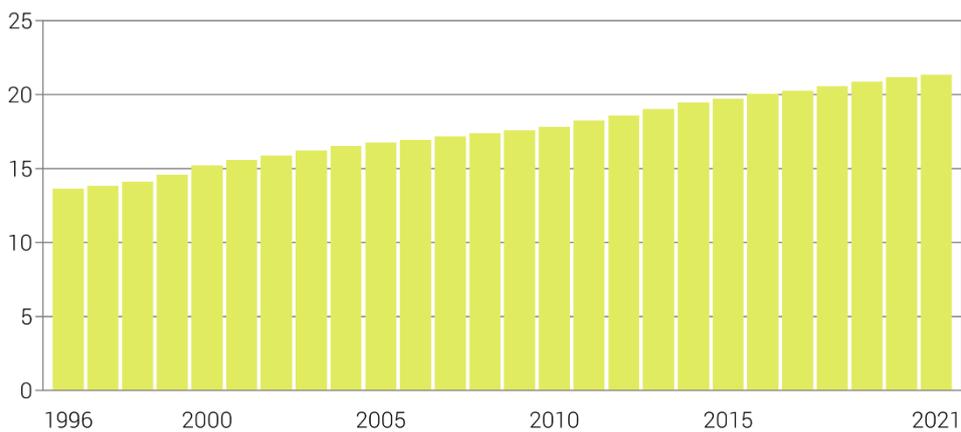
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**Figure 5:** Employees by economic sector

<sup>1</sup> (source: FSO, <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/kataloge-datenbanken/tabellen.assetdetail.22644544.html> )

## Landwirtschaftliche Nutzfläche pro Betrieb, 1996–2021

ha pro Betrieb



Quelle: BFS – Landwirtschaftliche Strukturerhebung

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**Figure 6:** Cultivated area per farm

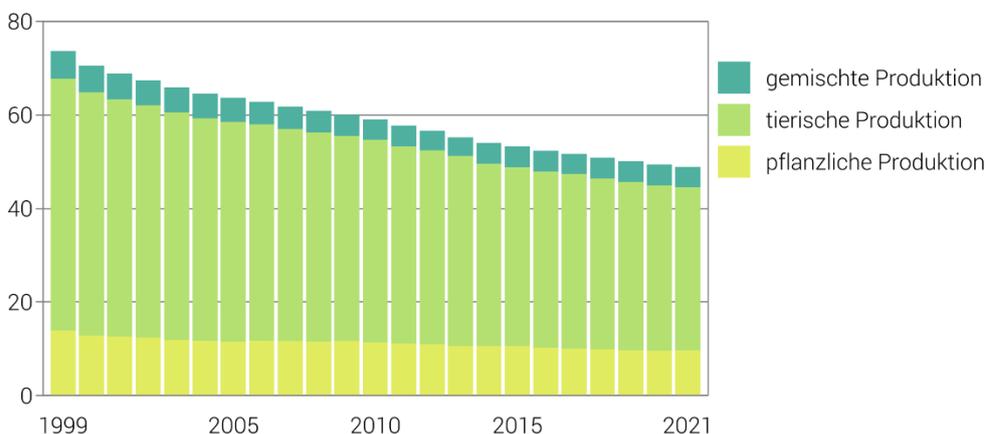
By international standards, the importance of agriculture to Switzerland's economy is low (approx. 1% of GDP), and the farms are rather small (average: 21 ha per farm) <sup>2</sup>

### 1.3.2 Main production of agriculture

Due to the climatic and topographic conditions, Switzerland is a country of grassland. But many areas are unsuitable for agriculture. The meadows and pastures provide forage for ruminants, which is why milk and meat production is dominant in Swiss agriculture. Most farms (71%) are active in animal production. Their number has decreased by more than a third since 1999.

## Landwirtschaftsbetriebe nach betriebswirtschaftlicher Ausrichtung, 1999–2021

Tausend Betriebe



Quelle: BFS – Landwirtschaftliche Strukturerhebung

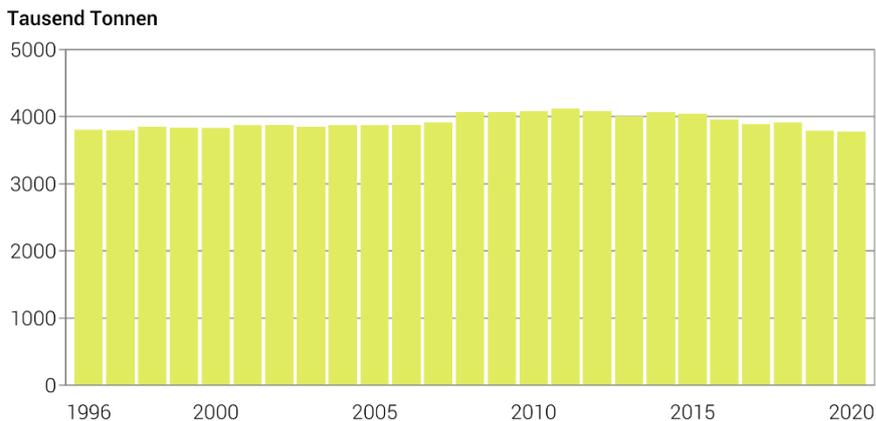
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**Figure 7:** Farms according to agricultural orientation

<sup>2</sup> (source: FSO, key figures in agriculture) (<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/land-forstwirtschaft/landwirtschaft/strukturen.assetdetail.12867947.html>)

In 2011, the largest amount of milk ever measured was produced at 4.1 billion kg. From 2011 to 2020, it decreased by 8%. 42% of the milk was processed into cheese.

### Tierische Produktion: Kuhmilch, 1996–2020



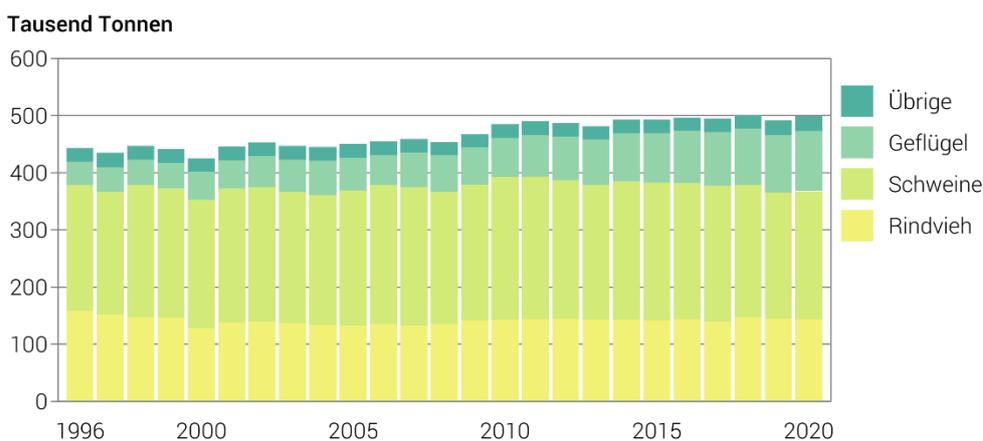
Quelle: SBV – Milchstatistik der Schweiz

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**Figure 8:** cow milk between 1996 and 2020

The domestic production of meat amounted to 499,000 tonnes, half of which is pork, followed by beef and poultry (Figure 7).

### Tierische Produktion<sup>1</sup>: Fleisch, 1996–2020



<sup>1</sup> Inländische Bruttoproduktion

Quelle: SBV – Viehwirtschaft

© BFS 2022

**Figure 9:** Meat production from different animals between 1996 and 2020

Since 2000, stocks of pigs, poultry, sheep and goats have been stable with the exception of the number of poultry which has increased. Thanks to the continuing positive situation on the poultry meat and egg market and the growing demand for Swiss poultry meat and eggs, the total poultry population rose to 12 millions. The evolution of the livestock census data between 2000 and 2021 is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Development of the livestock census data between 2000 and 2021

Livestock	Number of animals in millions	
	2000	2021
Poultry	6.79	12.56
Cattle	1.59	1.51
Pigs	1.50	1.36
Sheep	0.42	0.34
Goats	0.07	0.08
Horses	0.06	0.08

### 1.3.3 Borders

Most of the Swiss border is made up of high mountains (Alps, Jura), major rivers (Rhine, Doubs) and lakes (Lake Geneva, Lake Constance, Lake Maggiore, and Lake Lugano). In some areas, there is no physical separation, and under certain conditions, farmers are allowed to use land outside the Swiss border. The temporary livestock grazing on land outside Switzerland is subject to special supervision, which includes veterinary inspection at the beginning and at the end of the pasturing period and special treatments (e.g. against hypodermosis) or serological examinations as appropriate. In addition, there are cantonal directives for summer pasturing (summer pasturing regulations).

(Source: Federal Office of Statistics, [www.bfs.admin.ch](http://www.bfs.admin.ch))

## 1.4 Animal and animal product trade data

### 1.4.1 General trade conditions

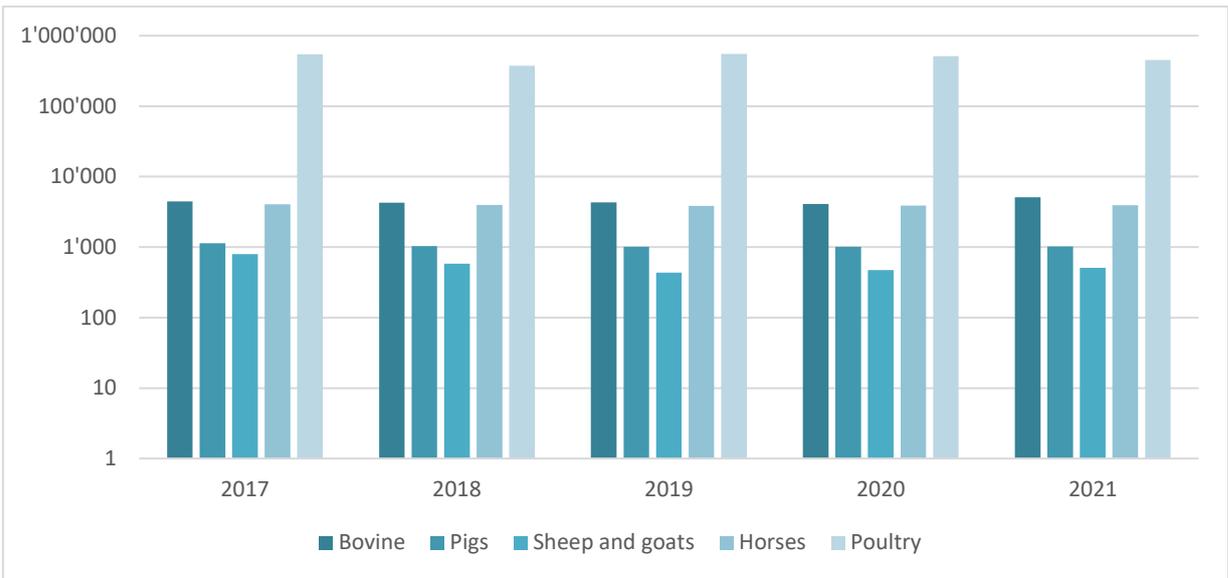
The Agriculture Agreement of 1999 between the European Union (EU) and Switzerland (SR 0.916.026.81) principally facilitates trade in agricultural products between Switzerland and the EU by harmonising the regulations on animal health and zootechnical measures applicable to the trade in live animals and animal products (annex 11, Veterinary Agreement). It ensures that the legal requirements of the EU and Switzerland in this sector are equivalent.

For imports of most animals and animal products from the EU to Switzerland, the same conditions apply as for “intracommunity trade” between EU Member States. No animal health permit from the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) is normally required for such imports. Official veterinary certificates or other documents are nevertheless required to import most of the animal species or products from the EU. Many farm animals undergo an official veterinary inspection at the destination point. In such cases the importers have to contact the responsible cantonal veterinary office before the scheduled import to obtain information on the details of this inspection. Switzerland is also linked to the European Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES). Approx. 30,000 users from more than 80 countries are connected via TRACES. This creates transparency in the trade process in the cross-border transport of animals, food and animal by-products within the EU and in trade with third countries. The exchange of information between the veterinary authorities ensures traceability and, in the event of outbreaks of disease or food problems, helps clarify facts quickly. Also EU third-country import conditions for animals and animal (by-) products, including import certificates, have been completely adopted by Switzerland. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) was notified of these changes on 17 August 2006 and, in an addendum to this notification, on 2 October 2006. Since 1 April 2007 consignments for export to Switzerland have had to be accompanied by the corresponding EU third-country certificates.

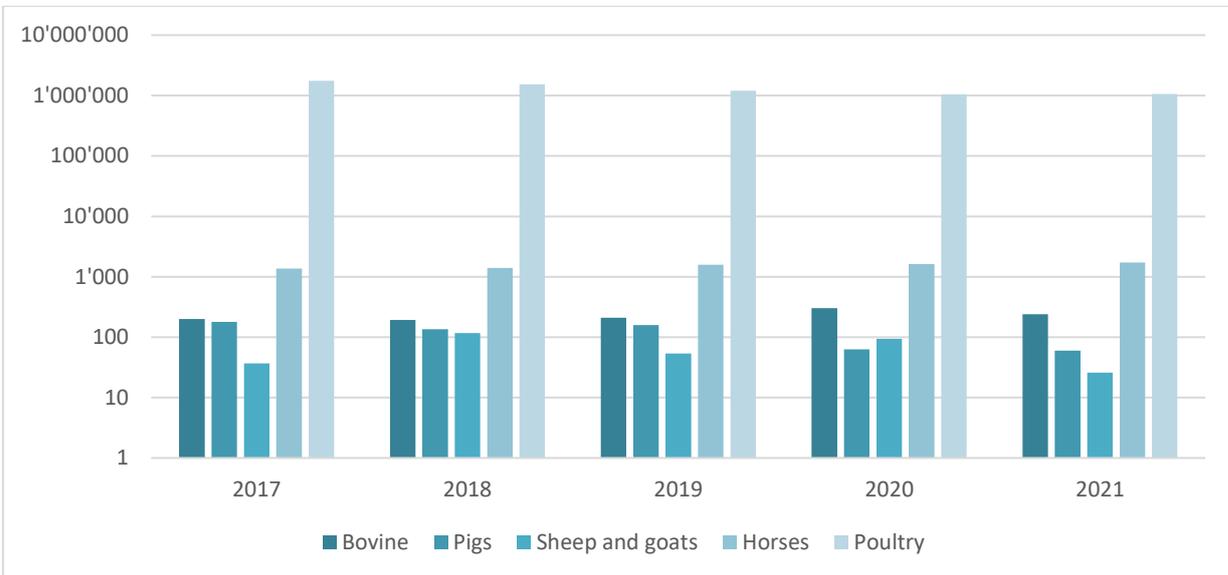
See also point 5.5.1, Agreement between Switzerland and European Union.

### 1.4.2 Trade in live animals

Figure 10 and Figure 11 show the numbers of imported and exported live animals from 2017 until 2021. Exports and imports are mainly between EU and Switzerland (2021 - import: 98.3%; export: 99.9%). The number of imported live animals from the EU to Switzerland has remained stable over the past five years.



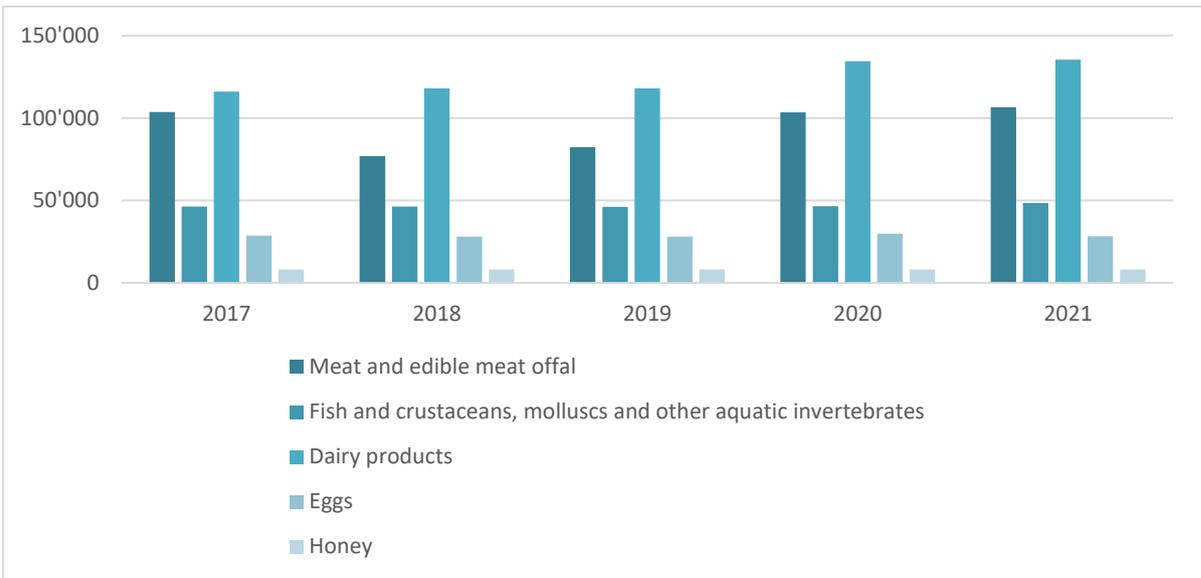
**Figure 10:** Number of live animals imported from the EU / third countries into Switzerland between 2017 and 2021. (Source: [SwissImpex](#))



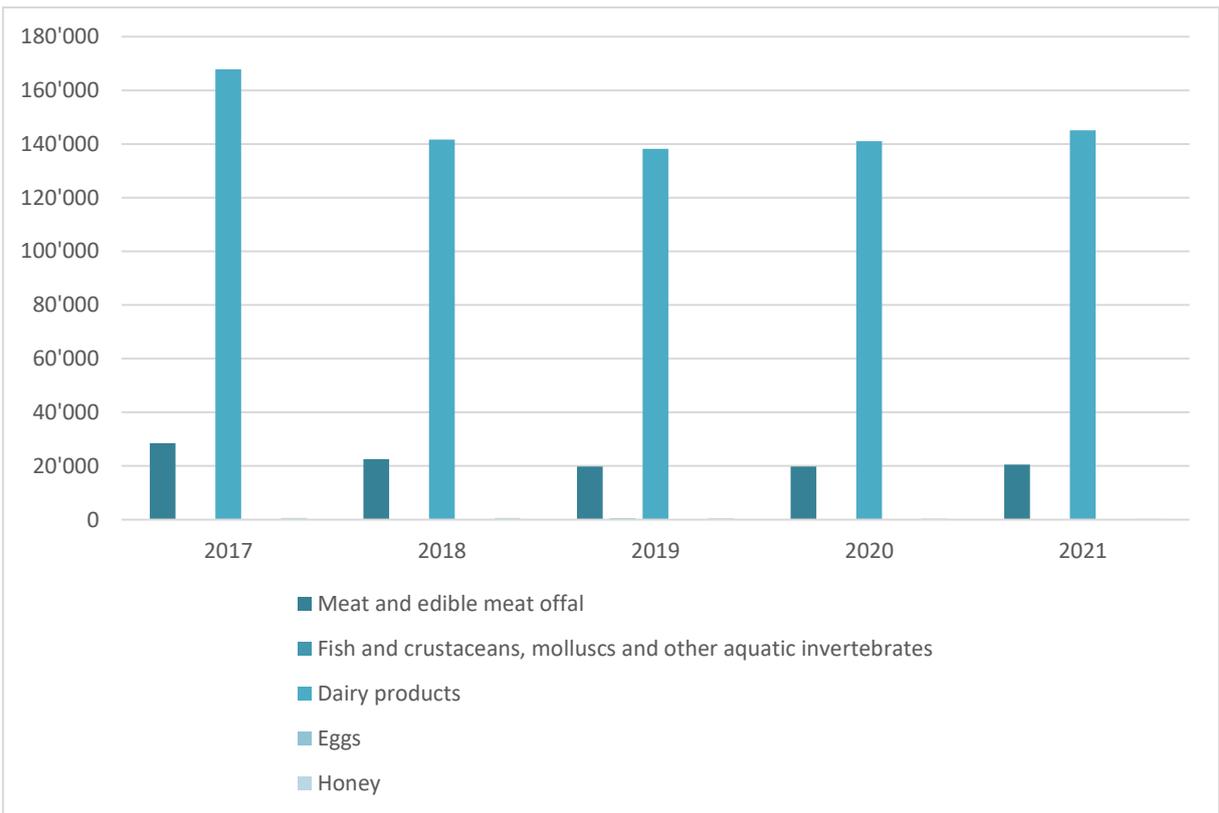
**Figure 11:** Number of live animals exported from Switzerland to the EU / third countries between 2017 and 2021. (Source: [SwissImpex](#))

### 1.4.3 Trade in animal products

Import and export numbers of animal products for the last five years are given in Figure 12 and Figure 13. The volume of imported and exported animal products in tonnes remained more or less equal between 2017 and 2021. Animal products are mainly imported from and exported into the EU (2021 - import: 87.2%; export: 85.7%).



**Figure 12:** Quantity of animal products imported from the EU / third countries into Switzerland (in tonnes) between 2014 and 2018. (Source: [SwissImpex](#))



**Figure 13:** Quantity of animal products exported from Switzerland to the EU / third countries (in tonnes) between 2014 and 2018. (Source: [SwissImpex](#))

## 2 Human, physical and financial resources

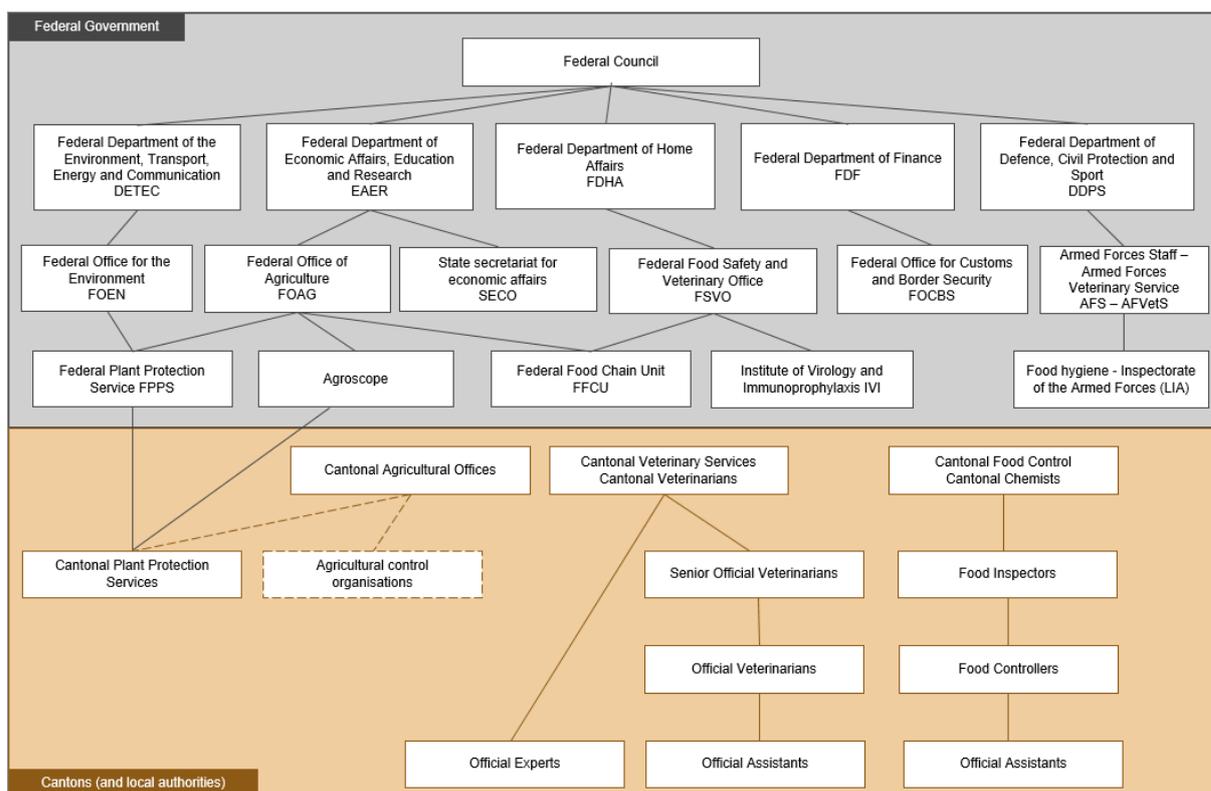
### 2.1 Professional and technical staffing of the Swiss Veterinary Service

#### 2.1.1 Organisational chart

In accordance with the federalist structure of Switzerland, the competencies delegated to the Swiss veterinary service are split between the three political levels of federal government, cantons and local (municipalities) authorities. The Swiss Veterinary Service operates as a professional and transparent organisation on a scientific basis. Figure 11 shows the federal and cantonal offices and official functions important for the Swiss veterinary service. Other governmental and cantonal units are omitted.

- The federal government performs the duties that require uniform regulation or that are assigned to it in the federal constitution (SR 101, Art. 42).
- Functions that are not an explicitly federal matter fall within the responsibility of the 26 cantons, which have their own constitution, their own parliament and their own government. The cantons are usually the enforcement authority and are under an obligation to enforce the federal law.

All cantons are subdivided into political communities that serve as local authorities with a limited degree of autonomy. The individual cantons determine the scope of this autonomy. The scope of local community autonomy therefore differs widely. In the context of the veterinary services, the functions of the local authorities are limited: the cantons generally organise the enforcement and controls on a centralised or regional basis.



**Figure 14:** Organisational chart of the Swiss veterinary service

Along the feed and food chain, the Federal Office of Agriculture (FOAG) and the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) not only have a legislative function. In the fields of plant health, feed, animal welfare, animal health and food, they also have the task of monitoring and coordinating the implementation of federal law by the cantons. In the following areas, the federal government is also directly responsible for implementing the relevant regulations:

- import, export and transit of food,
- import, export and transit of animals and products of animal origin
- feed.

These two offices coordinate their activities through the Federal Food Chain Unit (FFCU). The federal government coordinates the activities of the cantons through the issuing of instructions and the organisation of national surveillance programs.

At cantonal level, the cantonal agricultural offices, the cantonal veterinary services and the cantonal food control units are responsible for the enforcement of the relevant laws. The flow of information (controls carried out, nature of complaints, approved establishments etc.) from the cantonal offices to the federal authorities is guaranteed and based on the following basic legal principles:

- MANCP Annual report (SR 817.032, Art. 12, 13)
- Electronic information system (SR 910.15, Art. 7)
- Reporting system for implementation of food legislation (SR 817.042, Art. 7, 12, 21)
- Reporting system for animal by-products (SR 916.441.22, Art. 13)
- Central information system for epizootic diseases (SR 916.40, Art. 54a)
- Reporting system for epizootic diseases (SR 916.401, Art. 65, 312)
- Reporting system for meat inspections (SR 817.190, Art. 57, 59)
- Data collection for agriculture (SR 919.117.71, Art. 2, 15)
- Supervision and coordination of food legislation (SR 817.0, Art. 42)
- Reporting system for food legislation (SR 817.0 Art. 60, 61, 63)
- Personal data (SR 817.042, Art. 97)
- Information system for public veterinary service (SR 916.408, Art. 8, 9)
- Approval of export businesses (SR 916.443.10, Art. 51)
- Reporting system for animal welfare (SR 455.1, Art. 209, 212a, 212b, 213, 145)
- Reporting system in the field of veterinary medicines (SR 812.212.27, Art. 33)
- Information system on antibiotics in veterinary medicine (SR 812.214.4, Art. 3,4,9)
- Milk inspection results (SR 916.351.0, Art. 6,7,14 para. 6)
- VMPO inspection data (SR 812.212.27, Art. 31 para. 4, Art. 33)

### 2.1.2 Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office

The FSVO is located in the Swiss capital Berne. It is the competence centre of the federal government for the areas of food safety, nutrition, animal health, animal welfare and species protection in international trade. The FSVO is responsible for the national legislation, supports consistent implementation and enforcement in the cantons, provides the public with the information it needs and promotes applied research in its fields of expertise.

Approximately 279 people are employed by the FSVO, which represents approximately 230 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

The FSVO is divided into 8 divisions (Figure 12):

- The Food Safety and Nutrition division takes decisions on permits and supervises the implementation and enforcement of legislation to provide the Swiss population with the best possible protection against counterfeit products and dangers to health from foodstuffs and utility articles. It is responsible for development and implementation of the Swiss nutritional strategy.
- The Animal Health division promotes the maintenance and improvement of animal health in Switzerland with preventive measures, surveillance and control of epizootic diseases and takes precautions in the event of a crisis. It also monitors the trade in animals and supervises the proper use of veterinary medicines and antibiotics. It cooperates closely with the cantonal veterinary services, animal health services and other organizations involved in animal health.
- The Animal Welfare division is responsible for providing advice and training in the keeping of pets and farm animals, as well as research on animal-appropriate husbandry. The division also serves as the federal supervisory authority on the issuing of permits for animal experiments and is responsible for providing information and documentation and approved animal experiments. It is also responsible for testing and approving mass-produced housing systems and installations for keeping cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits.
- The International Affairs division ensures that the interests of Switzerland are represented in relevant international committees and is responsible for international cooperation as well as for the further development of the bilateral agreements. The division is also responsible for the protection of endangered species in international trade, for checks on imports of animals and

animal products from countries outside the EU and for supporting Swiss industry in the export of these goods. Additionally, knowledge and research management and further training of implementing bodies makes sure the gaps in knowledge are efficiently and reliably filled.

- The IT and Logistic division is responsible for managing the portfolio of strategic projects, for the further development of e-government and for the IT support.
- The Risk Assessment division ensures that health risks for humans and animals are identified and assessed. The division develops new tools for the early detection of possible risks, evaluates the safety of substances, microorganisms, processes and dietary behaviour and elaborates basic scientific principles in its own laboratories.
- The staff division includes, among others, the legal service which prepares the national legislation within the entire domain of the FSVO. It cooperates in the drafting of ordinances, reaches decisions and draws up statements in disputes and supervises administrative proceedings. It clarifies legal issues and cooperates in the drafting of agreements. This division is also responsible for the organisational development.
- The Communications division is the interface between the public and the FSVO and provides transparency and information if and where necessary. It coordinates media contacts and public relations, is responsible for the public profile of the FSVO and provides a contact point in the shape of the Infodesk, which people can contact with questions on, for example, the keeping of animals, on travel with animals and on food safety.

The FSVO considers itself as a partner of other authorities and organisations which have similar or related functions and objectives. In the service of the community, the FSVO is further committed to an open and comprehensive communication on the basis of scientific facts.

The FSVO mission (including objectives, mandates, and tasks) is available under:

<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/das-blv/auftrag.html>

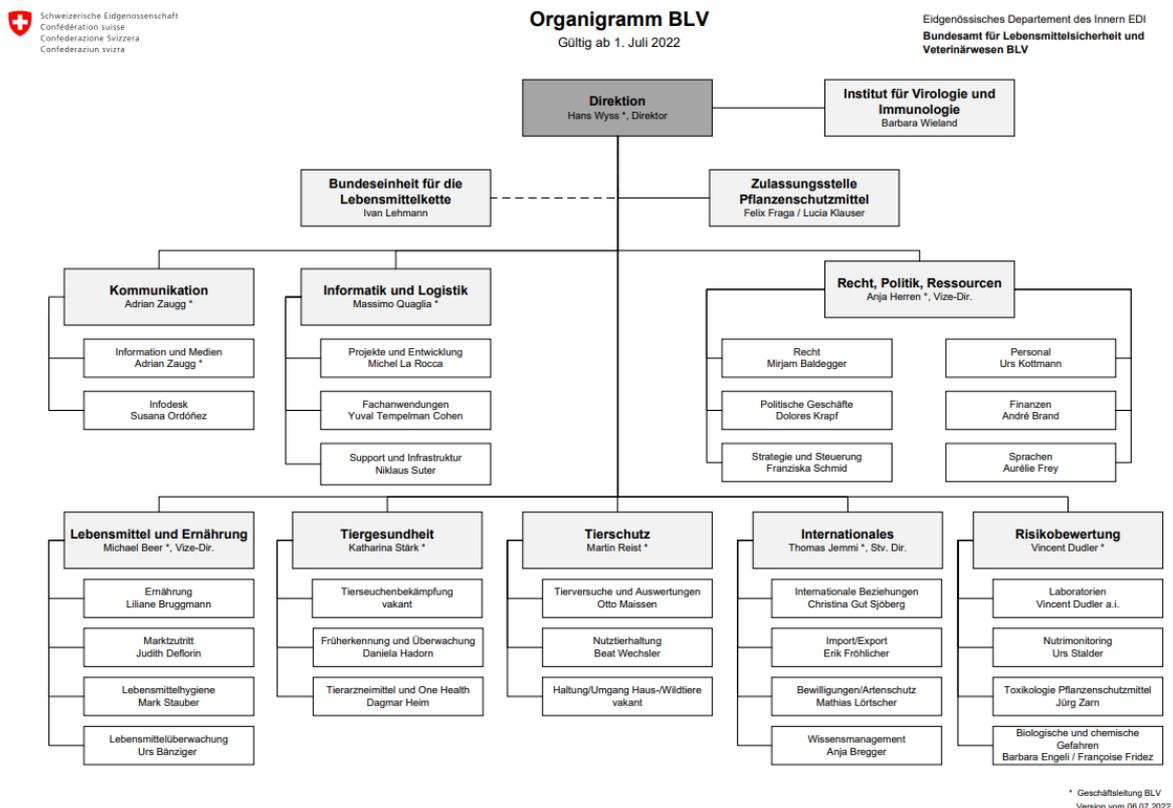


Figure 15: Organisational chart of the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office of Switzerland

### 2.1.3 Cantonal authorities

The cantonal veterinary offices are each responsible for one or several cantons and are generally located in the capitals of the cantons. They are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of national legislation and the establishment of cantonal implementing procedures, as well as export controls. The specific allocation of competences in the cantonal authorities concerning approvals, supervision of establishments and primary production is variable between cantons. In a more detailed manner, some of the responsibilities of the cantonal authorities (cantonal veterinary services and cantonal food control units) are described here:

- Approvals: all establishments producing food of animal origin need an approval by the competent cantonal authority. In addition, the cantonal authority approves an establishment for export, if required by the competent authority of the country of destination. The FSVO publishes the lists of approved establishments. Exemptions from the need for approval are possible, depending on the use of products and size of the plant (SR 817.02, Article 21).
- Supervision of meat primary (stable) and dairy food production: issues related to animal health and control over the use of medicines is always under the supervision of the cantonal veterinary services.
- Official supervision of slaughterhouses: the supervision (constructional inspections) of slaughterhouses is carried out by the cantonal veterinary services at least once a year in all cantons. The veterinarian in charge is contracted either by the canton or by the municipality.
  - o Meat cutting establishments: the supervision is performed either by the cantonal veterinary services or the cantonal food control units. The number of supervisions/inspections depends on the size of the establishment (in establishments producing more than 150,000 kg/year supervision by an official veterinarian is compulsory) and on whether the cutting plant operates on its own account or for a second retail establishment.
  - o Establishments processing meat or dairy products: the supervision is in most cases carried out by the cantonal food control units. However, in some cantons the supervision of the meat production establishments may be carried out by the cantonal veterinary services, usually when it is part of an integrated establishment that also has slaughter activity on the same site.
- Lists of the cantonal veterinary offices and the cantonal food laboratories are provided in the following links:
  - o Cantonal veterinary offices: [www.kantonstieraerzte.ch](http://www.kantonstieraerzte.ch) (German)
  - o Cantonal food control units: [www.kantonschemiker.ch](http://www.kantonschemiker.ch) (German, French, Italian, English)
- See also MANCP – Annex A: Cantonal and Principality of Liechtenstein profiles

### **Personal resources at the cantonal veterinary offices and food laboratories**

For more information about FTE see MANCP main document Table 9 “Human resources” and for more information about training requirement see MANCP main document chapter 4.7 “Basic, further and advanced training for the control bodies”

### 2.1.4 Animal health services

Officially endorsed animal health services are provided for pigs, sheep, goats, deer, bovines and honeybees. These services implement programmes to improve farm animal health and to eradicate various diseases, such as enzootic pneumonia in pigs.

These health services are private organisations with mainly the same goals as the official veterinary services (to maintain animal health, promote livestock-friendly housing systems and safeguard quality of food of animal origin). They indirectly support the official veterinary services because they strengthen the personal responsibility of farmers by providing information, education and advice. They therefore receive financial support through public funding.

See also:

Pigs: <https://www.suisag.ch/sgd-schweinegesundheitsdienst>

Bovine: <http://www.rgd.ch/>

Small ruminants: <http://bgk.caprovis.ch/cms02/showinx.asp?id=1&lang=1>

Honeybee: <http://www.apiservice.ch/>

Calves: <https://www.kgd-ssv.ch/de/home/?oid=10095&lang=de&oid=10095&lang=de>

### 2.1.5 Federal Food Chain Unit

The FFCU is a federal force certified according to ISO 9001:2015, which helps the confederation supervise the enforcement of laws and regulations in the areas of plant health, feed, animal health, animal welfare and food. It is led jointly by the FOAG and the FSVO and has the following aims:

- Supervision of the cantonal enforcement of legislation in the areas of food safety, animal health and welfare. The FFCU visits cantonal authorities and accompanies cantonal on-site controls. The results of these visits are delivered to the two leading offices. If necessary, the FOAG and the FSVO then order measures in their domain of authority.
- Verification of the enforcement of legislation by the Swiss authorities for animal feed and for the import of animals and animal products.
- Development, coordination of implementation and evaluation of a multiannual national control plan (MANCP) and emergency planning in cooperation with the two leading offices and the Cantons.

The MANCP is a control plan, which is based on a coherent strategy and contains risk-based priorities as well as effective control methods. It was established in accordance with general EU guidelines to ensure that uniform concepts are in place. According to the Agriculture Agreement with the EU (SR 0.916.026.81) Switzerland is obliged to carry out controls in the areas of feedstuff, food, animal health and animal welfare according to such plan. A yearly report about the implementation of the national control plan must be available to the EU Commission.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/das-blv/organisation/blk.html>

Human resources at the FFCU:

The FFCU employs 10 persons (approx. 8 FTEs)

## 2.2 Competencies of veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and official experts

The requirements upon people in the public veterinary service are described in the Ordinance on the training, further qualification and continuing education of people in the public veterinary service (SR 916.402). The professionals concerned are:

- Cantonal veterinarians
- Senior official veterinarians
- Official veterinarians
- Official experts
  - o Official experts for animal welfare
  - o Official experts for animal health
- Official assistant for the examination of slaughter animals and meat
- Official assistants for other tasks
  - o Official assistants for controls in primary production
  - o Official assistants for the control of animal welfare
  - o Official assistants for the inspection of bee holdings

## Terminology:

- The term “training” refers to training up to professional qualification (e.g. degree in veterinary medicine or apprenticeship as butcher, etc.);
- “Further qualification” refers to everything after this that leads to an additional qualification (e.g. official veterinarian [ATA] proficiency certificate, FVH title for veterinarians);
- “Continuing education” refers to everything that involves education but does not lead to a diploma (e.g., conference of the Veterinary Association for Food Security and Animal Health [TVL], conference of the Swiss Veterinary Society [GST], continuing education for food inspectors etc.);

### 2.2.1 Training of veterinarians

There are two veterinary faculties in Switzerland (Vetsuisse Faculty in Berne and Zurich), which offer the training of students over 5 years (Bachelor’s degree after 3 years, Master’s degree after additional 2 years).

The contents of the studies meet the requirements of Directive 2005/36/EC on professional qualifications and Directive 78/1027/EEC concerning the coordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of the activities of veterinary surgeons. A final exam takes place in 2 parts (year 4 and 5). There are about 50 - 65 state exams per year at both schools, a significantly greater proportion of which are taken by women.

A total of 116 federal diplomas in veterinary medicine were awarded in 2021. There were 58 at the University of Bern (84% women, 16% men) and 57 at the University of Zurich (91% women and 9% men). The average age of students receiving a diploma was 27 years, with no difference between men and women.

In addition, a total of 214 foreign diplomas in veterinary medicine were recognised in 2021, mainly from Germany. The average age of persons with a recognised diploma at the time of recognition was 35.

For details, see [link](#)

### 2.2.2 Further qualification of official veterinarians

Attendance of a clearly defined course of further training including the successful completion of an examination qualifies the person as a holder of the relevant proficiency certificate.

The qualification of official veterinarian can be acquired by all veterinarians working in public veterinary health if they undergo comprehensive training and pass a final exam. Only the FSVO is authorized to award this diploma. Events are organised and held by the authority responsible itself or are delegated to recognised further training institutions. The intensive training course for the qualification of official veterinarian consists of lectures covering the following four main aspects of veterinary public health:

- |                                                                   |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| - Basic knowledge on international organizations and legal rights | 40 hours |
| - Food safety and veterinary drugs                                | 55 hours |
| - Animal health                                                   | 56 hours |
| - Animal welfare                                                  | 40 hours |

The lectures are followed by some practical training under the supervision of an official veterinarian covering work in slaughter and cutting plants, veterinary services, laboratories, etc. (80 days).

The final exam consists of 3 written exams, one oral exam covering the entire topic of the course and two practical exams (1. inspection of carcasses at slaughter and meat inspection, 2. official veterinary controls).

These courses are organized once or twice a year. Specific practical experience in the field, which is organized by the cantons themselves, is strongly recommended and controlled by the FSVO.

### 2.2.3 Further qualification of senior official veterinarians

After two years of professional experience, the official veterinarians may further qualify as senior official veterinarian. A requirement is that they have a leading position in the Swiss Veterinary Service. The course is based on six 3-day modules on the following topics:

- Leadership
- Crisis management
- Communication
- Politics, lobbying
- Right
- Corporate governance

After each module, a theoretical thesis is to be written. A certificate of proficiency is awarded to the participants who have “met the learning objective” in all five topics.

### 2.2.4 Further qualification of paraprofessionals

#### Official assistant for the examination of slaughter animals and meat

Anyone who wants to work as an official assistant for the examination of slaughter animals and meat must have a basic vocational qualification in the agricultural or food sector.

The official assistants willing to acquire the proficiency certificate as an official assistant for the examination of slaughter animals and meat must show that they have undergone further training of 20 working days covering practice and theory and a consolidation phase of 80 working days on:

- the main features of legislation governing food, animal diseases and animal welfare insofar as this is of relevance for the examination of slaughter animals and meat
- anatomy and pathological changes insofar as this is of relevance for the examination of slaughter animals and meat
- slaughter techniques and slaughter hygiene and
- the procedure in the examination of slaughter animals and meat for the examination of slaughter animals and meat

#### Official assistant for other duties

The official assistant for other duties must have a basic vocational qualification.

Professionals willing to acquire the proficiency certificate as an official assistant for other duties must show that they have undergone further training of at least 30 working days.

- the theory and practice of general administrative procedures;
- the theory and practice of performing controls in the specialist field concerned; and
- the theory around the main features of legislation governing animal diseases, food, animal welfare and therapeutic products, the basic principles of quality assurance systems, the issuing of inspection reports and the psychological aspects involved in the implementation of controls

### 2.2.5 Training of official experts

There are two types of official expert:

- Official experts for animal welfare
- Official experts for animal health

The subject area of food safety is reserved for veterinary officers. For this reason, there is no corresponding specialisation for experts. The learning objectives in the subjects of relevance for the particular specialty are identical to those for veterinary officers. Experts must attend the module on basic knowledge and legal principles, as well as either the animal welfare module or the animal health module depending on the desired specialty. They participate together with the veterinary officers and must pass the same final exams.

## 2.2.6 Number of proficiency certificates

The first courses for official veterinarians started in 2008 and are very well attended every year. The detailed number of participants and certified official veterinarians until 2017 are shown in Table 3.

**Table 2:** Number of veterinarians and paraprofessionals having taken part in further qualification programmes between 2007 and 2021 and number of delivered certificates

	Courses since	Number of delivered certificates
Official veterinarian	2008	359
Senior official veterinarian	2012	55
Official expert – Animal welfare	2011	42
Official expert – Animal health	2011	7
Official assistant - Meat	2009	125
Official assistant - Primary production	2012	183
Official assistant - Animal welfare	2012	192
Official assistant – Bee inspector	2015	295
Official assistant – Primary production bees	2015	55

For additional information, see: MANCP Chapter 4.7 “Basic, further and advanced training for the control bodies”

## 2.2.7 Continuing education

All persons in the public veterinary system must keep their knowledge up to date through regular continuing education and must keep abreast of new developments. They are required to take part in at least one recognised continuing education event a year that meets the criteria laid down by the examinations commission.

- Events organised by the education commission;
- Continuing education events organised by the offices;
- Training events by associations (e.g., Federation of the Swiss Cantonal Veterinarians [VSKT]: 3 - 4 conferences a year, subjects relate to current issues in the Swiss Veterinary Service);
- Training events by federal offices for their own staff (e.g., border veterinarians) or persons from cantonal implementation;
- Training events by the EU (Better Training for Safer Food);
- Events of specialist organisations in Switzerland (e.g., Swiss Veterinary Association for Food Security and Animal Health (TVL): 2 days a year, subjects relate to current issues in the Swiss Veterinary Service);
- Events of specialist organisations abroad (e.g., trinational conference in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany).

## 2.2.8 Identification of further qualification and continuing education needs

In principle it is the duty of the authorities that employ the inspectors to identify the further training needs of their personnel and to implement the training plan. The further training is often evaluated by the provider of a course. Feedback from course participants then serves as a basis for the design of follow-up courses.

The effect of a further training activity is the subject of self-assessments in the personnel management system of the competent authorities or the commissioned control organisations and laboratories.

## **2.3 Technical independence**

One goal of the professionalization of the Swiss Veterinary Service is to ensure that official veterinarians would be able to carry out their duties without undesirable influences (e.g. commercial) and that technical decisions will be taken based on scientific evidence.

Each canton can establish its own organisation to guarantee technical independence (e.g. a practitioner working additionally as an official veterinarian would not perform his or her official duties in the same region as that in which his veterinary practice is located). Furthermore, a declaration of independence should be part of the employment contract and the official veterinarian must at least work 30% as an official veterinarian.

## **2.4 Planning, sustainability and management of policies and programmes**

A unique feature of Swiss politics is the concordance system. For decades, the most important political parties have put forward the seven Federal Councillors in a form of coalition. Equally, not only those who win the elections have a seat in government; all parties are represented in proportion to number of votes. Furthermore, since as many groups as possible have the opportunity to express their opinions on a topic and contribute to its development, consensus is always sought.

The principles of collegiality and concordance contribute significantly to Switzerland's political stability. Therefore, the capability of the Swiss Veterinary Service to implement and sustain its policies over time cannot be considered an issue. Long-term strategies are developed and implemented in collaboration between central and local authorities.

## **2.5 Coordination capability of the Veterinary Service**

In line with the federalist structure of Switzerland, the tasks and responsibilities of the Swiss Veterinary Service are distributed between the three political levels of federal government, cantons and local authorities.

This system requires very strong coordination and collaboration between the involved authorities both within the Swiss Veterinary Service and outside it.

### **2.5.1 Internal coordination (chain of command)**

Ensuring the uniform enforcement is one of the main tasks of the FSVO. This requires the FSVO to play an active leading role in the Swiss Veterinary Service. Leadership is primarily understood as the leading of processes. The Swiss Veterinary Service is based on a partnership between the federal offices and the cantons, under which the foundations of effective enforcement are developed together but at the same time also with federal supervision. Elements of this supervision are support, harmonisation, security and verification.

Practical enforcement tools and competent advice provide support for the responsible cantons in the efficient enforcement of the regulations. Uniform standards in the various tasks make for homogeneous controls and thus ensure harmonisation. A clear scientific basis with customized training and continuing education gives all those working in the Swiss Veterinary Service the confidence of being able to perform their duties professionally. In this way, the Swiss Veterinary Service achieves a high degree of credibility.

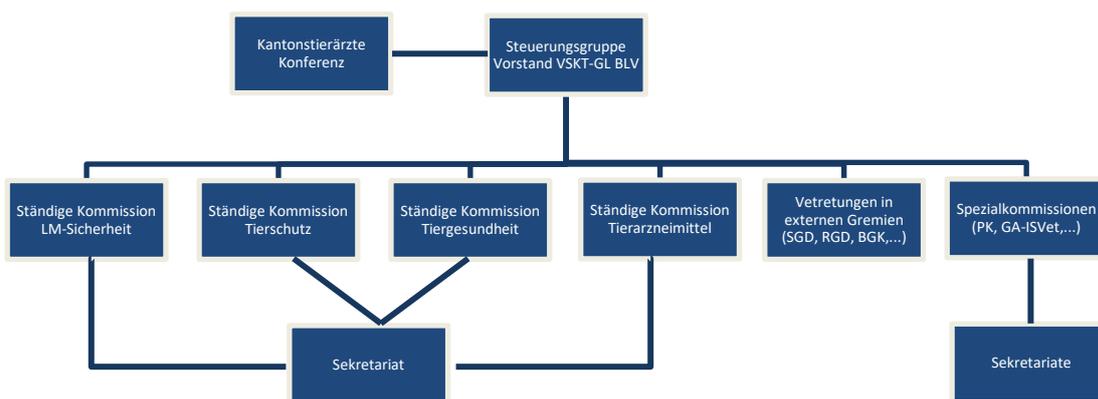
More specifically, the cooperation within the Swiss Veterinary Service (between VSKT and the FSVO) is structured and intensive.

The cantonal veterinary officers are grouped together in the Federation of Swiss Cantonal Veterinary Officers (VSKT). The tasks of the federation are as follows:

To deal with official and professional issues; to promote continuing professional development; to promote the consistent enforcement of the relevant legislation relating to animal health, animal welfare and the production of safe food products of animal origin; to foster collegial relationships among its members and related professional associations.

The Conference of Cantonal Veterinarians takes place three times a year. A month before each conference the chair of the VSKT and the director of the FSVO meet for a preliminary discussion of the items on the agenda.

The Swiss Veterinary Service maintains a structured, cooperative partnership between the FSVO and the cantonal veterinary authorities. This consists of committees with clear, defined roles and has shared objectives such as early involvement of cantonal veterinarians, increased efficiency in implementation and enforcement and the maintenance of mutual engagement (Figure 14).



**Figure 16:** Organisation of collaboration within the Swiss Veterinary Service

Details on the different coordination groups and platforms are provided in the MANCP Chapter 6 “Coordination and cooperation between participating agencies”.

### 2.5.2 External coordination

The cooperation and coordination between the Swiss Veterinary Service and the other authorities involved along the food chain is structured and intensive. Details on the different coordination groups and platforms are provided in the MANCP Chapter 6 “Coordination and cooperation between participating agencies”.

Additionally, lots of technical working groups involving all the partners are performed on a regular basis depending on the topic.

## 2.6 Physical resources and capital investment

In normal situations, the entire required infrastructure (buildings, transport, computers and so on) are provided by the cantons and the state to the Swiss Veterinary Service.

In the case of an animal health crisis, the cantons may request the subsidiary deployment of the veterinary corps of the army for help in the cleaning and disinfection of infected holdings. The veterinary corps is specially equipped to work simultaneously on multiple disaster sites.

In crisis situations, the cantons also work closely with civil protection.

The FSVO defines the strategic goals of the office in 4-year intervals. These take into account the requirements for animal health, animal welfare and food safety. The strategic goals are based on an

annual operating plan. The activities of the individual FSVO divisions are thus determined on this basis. The capital investments are linked to the defined annual objectives and the strategic goals defined at 4-year intervals.

If additional funding is required (e.g., following an amendment in the legislation) during an interval, the decision related to the investment has to be approved by the Swiss Parliament.

## **2.7 Operational funding**

The annual budget of the FSVO is approved by the Swiss Parliament and runs to about 75 million Swiss francs (incl. salaries).

The budget of the cantonal enforcement authorities is approved by the different cantonal parliaments and varies depending on the cantons.

## **2.8 Emergency funding**

In the case of emergency (e.g. national foot and mouth disease outbreak), a procedure is in place that enables the FSVO to request further financial support. This additional financial support has to be approved by the Swiss Parliament.

## **3 Technical authority and capability**

### **3.1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis**

#### **3.1.1 Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis**

A good and efficient diagnosis is a prerequisite for successful disease control. In Switzerland, the diagnosis of epizootic diseases and zoonoses is organised in a network of public and private diagnostic laboratories.

Laboratories need to be recognised by the corresponding federal offices for the diagnosis of infectious diseases. This represents an important part of the quality assurance and harmonisation of diagnostics. National reference centres and reference laboratories are designated. They support and monitor the diagnostic activities of the laboratories and advise the authorities on technical matters. Furthermore they are part of a well-established international network; confirming unusual laboratory findings and conducting ring trials and research projects.

The reference laboratories (according to SR 916.401; Art. 312) not only perform diagnostic testing, but also carry out research projects in the context of the diseases for which they have reference functions (Table 6). This system has the advantage of a good, accurate and up-to-date knowledge for the control of epizootic diseases. These 12 reference laboratories are government-operated laboratories.

As from 1 January 2014, the Institute of Virology and Immunology (IVI) has two sites, in Mittelhäusern and Bern. The later is the former Institute of Veterinary Virology (IVV) of the Vetsuisse Faculty Bern. The Institute of Virology and Immunology at the Mittelhäusern site is the Swiss reference laboratory for the diagnosis, surveillance and control of highly infectious animal diseases such as fowl pest (avian influenza), foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever. The IVI investigates the emergence of new diseases in animals and their potential for transmission to humans. It is the approval authority for vaccines and sera for animals. The IVI is part of the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO).

The laboratories of the different veterinary institutes with research focus on virology, bacteriology, immunology and food safety are established at both universities of the Vetsuisse Faculty (Berne [http://www.vetsuisse.unibe.ch/index\\_eng.html](http://www.vetsuisse.unibe.ch/index_eng.html) and Zurich <http://www.vet.uzh.ch/en.html> ).

These laboratories coordinate their research specialties in order to cover all relevant aspects of epizootics and food safety.

Switzerland is home to a major pharmaceutical industry, sections of which deal primarily with veterinary research. There are also some small private laboratories specialising in the development of diagnostic tests or kits.

### 3.1.2 Suitability of the national laboratory system

**Table 3:** List of reference laboratories (as at 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022)

<https://www.blv.admin.ch/dam/blv/de/dokumente/tiere/tierkrankheiten-und-arzneimittel/tierseuchendiagnostik/nationale-referenzlaboratorien-tierseuchen-zoonosen.pdf.download.pdf/Nationale-Referenzlaboratorien-fuer-Tierseuchen-und-Zoonosen.pdf>

Labor	Untersuchungsparameter
<a href="#">Institute of Virology and Immunology (IVI); Mittelhäusern site</a>	Highly contagious animal diseases as referred to in Article 2 EzDO; haemorrhagic disease of deer, PRRS, Japanese encephalitis and West Nile fever
<a href="#">Institute of Virology and Immunology (IVI); University of Bern site</a>	Rabies, bovine virus diarrhoea, caprine arthritis-encephalitis, maedi-visna, enzootic bovine leukosis, equine infectious anaemia, equine arteritis, pulmonary adenomatosis, equine encephalomyelitis (excluding JEV and WNF), bluetongue, infectious rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis
<a href="#">Institute of Parasitology Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern</a>	Dourine, <i>Tritrichomonas foetus</i> infection, neosporosis, toxoplasmosis, trichinellosis, besnoitiosis, acariosis, varroasis, hypodermosis, echinococcosis, cryptosporidiosis
<a href="#">Institute of Parasitology Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich</a>	Echinococcosis, cryptosporidiosis, hypodermosis, neosporosis, toxoplasmosis, trichinellosis, besnoitiosis
<a href="#">Institute for Food Safety and Hygiene Sections for Veterinary Bacteriology, Vetsuisse Faculty University of Zurich</a>	Paratuberculosis, pseudotuberculosis, tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis, brucellosis of sheep and goats, salmonellosis
<a href="#">Section Poultry Diseases Institute for Food Safety and Hygiene, Vetsuisse Faculty University of Zurich</a>	Avian chlamydiosis, avian influenza, infectious laryngotracheitis of chickens, myxomatosis, Newcastle disease, Salmonella infection of poultry and pigs, rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease, salmonellosis, West Nile virus (birds)
<a href="#">Institute of Veterinary Pathology Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich</a>	Enzootic Chlamydial abortion in sheep and goats; general recognition for official diagnosis of animal diseases
<a href="#">Institute of Virology Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich</a>	Infectious rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis, Aujeszky's disease, transmissible gastroenteritis, bluetongue, enzootic bovine leukosis, PRRS
<a href="#">NeuroCenter Division of Experimental Clinical Research and VPHI Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern</a>	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, scrapie, listeriosis
<a href="#">Centre for Fish and Wildlife Health Department of Infectious Diseases and Pathobiology (DIP)</a>	Spring viraemia of carp, infectious salmon anaemia, infectious haematopoietic necrosis, infectious pancreatic necrosis, crayfish plague, proliferative kidney disease of fish, viral haemorrhagic septicaemia
<a href="#">Institute of Veterinary Bacteriology Centre for Zoonoses, Bacterial Animal Diseases and Antibiotic Resistance (ZOBA) Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern</a>	Actinobacillus, contagious equine metritis, brucellosis in various species of animal, campylobacteriosis, coxiellosis, enzootic pneumonia in pigs, <i>Campylobacter foetus</i> infection, contagious agalactia, leptospirosis, listeriosis, contagious bovine, ovine and caprine pleuropneumonia, anthrax, blackleg, glanders, salmonella infection in poultry, salmonellosis, tularemia, yersiniosis, enzootic Chlamydial abortion in sheep and goats, avian chlamydiosis, pseudotuberculosis
<a href="#">Research Station Agroscope Liebefeld- Posieux Centre for Bee Research (ZBF)</a>	Acariosis, varroasis, infestation with <i>Tropilaelaps spp</i> and <i>Aethina tumida</i> , European foulbrood, American foulbrood

**Table 4:** List of the officially approved veterinary diagnostic laboratories (as at 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022)  
[https://www.blv.admin.ch/dam/blv/de/dokumente/tiere/tierkrankheiten-und-arzneimittel/tierseuchendiagnostik/anerkannte-diagnostiklaboratorien.pdf.download.pdf/Anerkannte%20Diagnostiklaboratorien\\_18122018.pdf](https://www.blv.admin.ch/dam/blv/de/dokumente/tiere/tierkrankheiten-und-arzneimittel/tierseuchendiagnostik/anerkannte-diagnostiklaboratorien.pdf.download.pdf/Anerkannte%20Diagnostiklaboratorien_18122018.pdf)

Name of the approved laboratory	Address	Website
Amt für Lebensmittelsicherheit und Tiergesundheit Graubünden	Ringstrasse 10 7001 Chur	<a href="http://www.alt.gr.ch/">http://www.alt.gr.ch/</a>
IDEXX Diavet Labor AG	Schlyffstrasse 10 Postfach 43 8806 Bäch	<a href="https://www.idexx.ch/de-ch/">https://www.idexx.ch/de-ch/</a>
laboRvet AG	Wiggermatte 16 6260 Reiden	<a href="http://www.laborvet.ch">http://www.laborvet.ch</a>
Direction générale de l'agriculture, de la viticulture et des affaires vétérinaires (DGAV) Laboratoire vétérinaire Institut Galli-Valerio	Rue César-Roux 37 1014 Lausanne	<a href="https://www.vd.ch/themes/population/veterinaires-et-animaux/laboratoire-veterinaire-institut-galli-valerio/">https://www.vd.ch/themes/population/veterinaires-et-animaux/laboratoire-veterinaire-institut-galli-valerio/</a>
Service de la sécurité et des affaires vétérinaire SAAV Laboratoire Biologie Vétérinaire	Impasse de la Colline 4 1762 Givisiez	<a href="http://www.fr.ch/saav/de/pub/laboratoire/laboratoire_biologie_veterinai.htm">http://www.fr.ch/saav/de/pub/laboratoire/laboratoire_biologie_veterinai.htm</a>
Service de la Consommation et des Affaires Vétérinaire Laboratoire vétérinaire cantonal de Neuchâtel	Rue Jehanne-de-Hochberg 5 2001 Neuchâtel	<a href="https://www.ne.ch/autorites/DDTE/SCAV/Pages/accueil.aspx">https://www.ne.ch/autorites/DDTE/SCAV/Pages/accueil.aspx</a>
Servizio di Microbiologia EOLAB	Via Mirasole 22 A 6500 Bellinzona	<a href="http://microbiologia.eoc.ch/">http://microbiologia.eoc.ch/</a>
Zentrum für Labormedizin (ZLM) Veterinärmedizinische Abt.	Frohbergstrasse 3 9001 St. Gallen	<a href="http://www.zlmsg.ch/">http://www.zlmsg.ch/</a>

More detailed information on the different laboratories can be found under <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/tiere/tierseuchen/tierseuchendiagnostik.html>

### 3.1.3 Laboratory quality management systems (QMS)

Since 1 January 2000, all private and state laboratories engaged in the diagnosis of notifiable diseases and food hygiene must be accredited under the Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS) in conformity with the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005 (<https://www.sas.admin.ch/sas/en/home.html>).

In addition, the approval of laboratories for the diagnosis of notifiable animal diseases is subject to the fulfilment of further requirements:

- veterinary laboratories must be directed by, or at least have in their employ, a veterinarian specialising in laboratory diagnosis;
- veterinary laboratory must participate in the proficiency testing organised by the national reference laboratories or foreign quality assessment providers; veterinary laboratories have to be attached to the National Laboratory Network, which collects all laboratory results conducted on notifiable animal diseases.

Additionally, all national reference laboratories have to participate in the international quality tests or proficiency testing programmes.

## 3.2 Risk analysis and epidemiology

Risk analyses are crucial to the decisions made by the authorities on complex matters. Repeatable analyses provide a basis for decision-making, leading to fewer wrong decisions. The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) uses risk analysis methods in the fields of animal disease control and food safety. The division early detection and surveillance develops new tools for the early detection of possible risks. Regulations for the import of animals and all goods are modified based on the results,

control measures are checked and monitoring programmes established to test for animal diseases and contamination in foods.

By way of risk assessment, the reference laboratories carry out regular studies related to the occurrence, spread and importance of zoonoses and zoonotic pathogens.

### **3.3 Quarantine and border security**

Competent authorities responsible for import control

The FSVO implements import and transit conditions and controls, and may restrict or prohibit the import or transit of a wide range of animals and animal products. Measures are taken based on animal health, animal welfare, public health and species conservation considerations.

Equivalence with EU requirements on imports

The animal health requirements are determined based on empirical qualitative risk assessments with a view to preserving Switzerland's freedom from all former List A diseases defined by the WOH and many former List B diseases. They refer to the recommendations of the WOH Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes, taking into account the Swiss (non-)vaccination policies and ongoing disease eradication programmes. In 2007, in the context of the agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products (SR 0.916.026.81), Switzerland gradually adopted the same import regulations as the European Union (EU).

For the import of animals and animal products from the EU to Switzerland, the same conditions apply as for "intracommunity trade" between EU Member States. The conditions for importing from a third country to Switzerland are the same as those for importing from third countries to the EU. The relevant import certificates have also been completely adopted by Switzerland. The WTO was duly notified on 17 August 2006 and, with an addendum to this notification, on 2 October 2006. As from 1 April 2007, consignments for export from third countries to Switzerland have to be accompanied by the corresponding EU third country certificates. The enforcement, revisions, contents and responsibility of import regulations have been centralised by the DG SANTE Commission in Brussels.

From the former 80 inspection posts, 24 of which were used only for temporary import/export of bovines (transhumance), the number was substantially reduced in the context of the agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products. As foreseen by the agreement, the remaining airport inspection posts of Geneva airport and Zurich airport act as Border Inspection Posts (BIP) for live animals and products of animal origin imported from third countries. The FSVO therefore contracts about 10 border veterinarians mainly stationed at these two international airports.

As a general principle, the importer is responsible for compliance with all import requirements. The border veterinarians may reject, confine or destroy consignments that do not comply with import legislation. The importer may lodge an appeal against this decision with the FSVO, but this appeal will not stop the measures enforced by the border veterinary service. If the importer does not agree with the decision of the FSVO, the appeal may be taken further with the Federal Administrative Court. The penalty then depends on the gravity of the infringements.

### **3.4 Surveillance and early detection**

General information

The animal disease surveillance is the collection and documentation of the health status of the Swiss animal population. Because the risk of successfully eradicated animal disease being introduced to

Switzerland again at any time is far from negligible, the freedom of eradicated animal diseases has been systematically monitored since 1995. The surveillance is based on three pillars:

- clarification of suspected clinical cases
- controls by import
- annual control programs.

Thus, a comprehensive and well-documented surveillance system has been in place for many years. The Swiss domestic livestock is currently free from all highly infectious animal diseases.

Providing evidence of freedom from disease is based on different methodological approaches. In addition to the notification requirement in the event of outbreaks, examinations following abortion and meat inspections, Switzerland also conducts annual risk-based surveys (SR 916.401; Art. 130). The random sample size for the national surveys is designed to prove a herd prevalence of 0.2% with 99% confidence.

The list of diseases that Switzerland is free of is regularly updated and can be found under [Tiergesundheitsstatistik 2021.pdf](#)  
(<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/tiere/publikationen/statistiken-berichte-tiere.html>)

Epizootic	Recognition by WOA	Recognition by EU	Self-declaration according to WOA code	Comments
African swine fever			x	Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Aujeszky's disease		x		Risk-based random sample screening programme since 2001
Bluetongue			x	Risk-based random sample screening programme since 2007
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)	x			Risk-based random sample screening programme since 1999
Brucellosis in cattle		x		Risk-based random sample screening programme since 1997 and abortion investigation
Brucellosis in sheep and goats		x		Risk-based random sample screening programme since 1998 and abortion investigation
<i>Campylobacter foetus</i>			x	Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Caprine arthritis encephalitis			x	Disease eradicated since 2018
Dermatitis nodularis (lumpy skin disease)			x	Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Dourine			x	Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Enzootic bovine leukosis		x		Risk-based random sample screening programme since 1994
Avian influenza			x	Risk-based random sample screening programme since 2006
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis		x		Risk-based random sample screening programme since 1994
Infectious salmon anaemia		x		Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Classical swine fever	x			Disease eradicated since 1993 (pigs intended for production)/1999 (wild boar)
Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia	x			Disease eradicated since 1895
Foot and mouth disease	x			Disease eradicated since 1980
Newcastle disease		x		Risk-based random sample screening programme since 2006
Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)	x			Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome			x	Risk-based random sample screening programme since 2006 and abortion investigation
African horse sickness	x			Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Rift Valley fever			x	Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Cattle plague	x			Disease eradicated since 1871
Sheep and goat pox			x	Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Rabies		x		Disease eradicated since 1999

Tuberculosis	x	Risk-based sampling programme 1997 and meat inspection, since 2013 early detection programme on lymph node monitoring (LyMON)
Vesicular stomatitis	x	Disease never detected (historically disease-free)
Swine vesicular disease	x	Disease eradicated since 1974

**Table 5:** List of epizootics from which Switzerland is recognised to be free – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

## Zoonoses

Zoonotic diseases are also monitored. The aim of the surveillance of zoonotic diseases is to collect accurate information on the occurrence of zoonotic agents at all stages of the food production chain. Measures based on these data are implemented to protect the consumer from zoonoses. The FSVO aims to combat zoonotic agents in food (with the focus on Salmonella and Campylobacter) and thus reduce the number and severity of outbreaks in humans. At the beginning of the programme, a prevalence study is performed in the target population to determine the level of contamination and to define the goals of the programme.

Furthermore, the FSVO is the International Health Regulation (IHR) contact point for zoonosis and food safety within the Swiss IHR network. This network ensures a good coordination and collaboration between the different federal offices. Thus, it enables a rapid and coordinated notification of zoonotic events to the World organization for animal health (WOAH) and to World health organization (WHO).

## Wild animals

In Switzerland, the Centre for Fish and Wildlife Health (FIWI) monitors the health status of wildlife on behalf of the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). In accordance with the ordinance on hunting and the protection of wild mammals and birds (SR 922.01) the Confederation is under an obligation to support studies on diseases of wild animals.

The FIWI acts as a national competence centre for diseases of free-living and captive fish and wildlife. Its duties include:

- Diagnosis of diseases: the FIWI acts as the national reference laboratory for notifiable fish diseases as well as an ISO/IEC 17025-certified laboratory for infectious diseases in fish and wild animals.
- Research of infectious and non-infectious diseases: The main research focus is on pathogenesis, ecopathology, epidemiology and monitoring.
- Teaching, education, and consulting

The aim of its work is to understand the possible interactions between the course of a disease and environmental factors. Veterinary and ecological aspects are thus taken into account for the evaluation of the aetiopathology of a disease.

For details see: [https://www.fwi.vetsuisse.unibe.ch/index\\_eng.html](https://www.fwi.vetsuisse.unibe.ch/index_eng.html)

### 3.4.1 Passive surveillance, early detection and epidemiological outbreak investigation

Passive epidemiological surveillance is based on the reporting system, which gathers information on the occurrence of notifiable diseases. The ordinance on epizootic diseases (SR 916.401) classifies around 80 diseases as notifiable. All persons who keep, look after and treat animals or have any kind of access to herds as well as laboratories investigating epizootic diseases are required to report to the veterinary authorities not only disease outbreaks but also suspicious signs that might indicate the presence of a disease. Additionally, official assistants, butchers, persons working in rendering plants, the police and customs officers are also required to report to the veterinary authorities (SR 916.40, Art. 11). The reporting authorities are the cantonal veterinary offices, which in turn notify to the FSVO. Cantonal authorities also report outbreaks of foodborne diseases. The reported findings are collected centrally and undergo epidemiological analysis.

The aim of early detection is to identify the occurrence of new and re-emerging epizootic diseases, other animal diseases and zoonoses early on, to assess continuously the potential risk to humans and animals and to pass on the information obtained quickly and specifically to the persons concerned. This enables the decision-makers to prepare or initiate appropriate action in good time.

Since 2013, the FSVO operates – together with the cantonal veterinary services and various stakeholders - a national early detection system in order to support the early detection of new and re-

emerging epizootic diseases, other animal diseases and zoonoses. In Switzerland, early detection is focused on livestock but also includes pets and wildlife populations.

The early detection system includes the following elements:

- Raising disease awareness and implementing early detection programs for specific diseases
- Increasing efficiency of monitoring and surveillance systems using (private) animal health data
- Optimizing population medicine by supporting reliable relationship between producer and veterinarians
- Improving diagnostic networks
- Build up new tools like Syndromic Surveillance

Further details on early detection can be found in the MANCP, Chapter 7 “Early detection”.

The reporting obligation with regard to some specific diseases (SR 916.401) also plays an important role in the early detection of outbreaks. This system allows a continuous risk assessment of existing prevention measures.

Information on all outbreaks of notifiable diseases in Switzerland since 1991 is available on the FSVO database infoSM (= information system for cases of notifiable diseases)

<https://www.infosm.blv.admin.ch/info>

The occurrence of highly infectious or exotic diseases – and other unusual events – is reported immediately to partner organisations (WOAH, EU Commission), i.e. within 24 hours.

#### 3.4.2 Active surveillance and monitoring

A monitoring programme is used for active epidemiological surveillance. To carry out the monitoring programme, the Swiss Veterinary Service has at its disposal the IT business management system asan. This uses the information held in central registers on risks associated with farms and livestock populations. The intention is to make all laboratory results from the central laboratory database also available to asan in future.

For monitoring purposes, random samples are conducted in asan, and the farms selected are referred to the cantons for investigation. The cantons conduct farm visits and sampling, in asan, and the FSVO also uses the system to evaluate the random sample as a whole.

Not only farms, but also slaughterhouses and border inspection posts at international airports are important sites for monitoring, especially zoonotic diseases. In slaughterhouses, the monitoring plans are implemented by the meat inspection personnel. For the border inspections, a [sampling plan](#) is devised that takes current risks into account.

### 3.5 Emergency preparedness and response

The federal offices are under a statutory obligation to draw up emergency plans for crisis management jointly and with the involvement of the cantonal law enforcement agencies and customs (SR 817.0, Art. 21; SR 916.020, Art. 10; SR 916.401, Art. 97). The emergency plans must specify the technical procedure for coping with incidents. They must also contain information on the official departments and organisations that have to be involved, their functions in the event of a crisis and the procedures for exchanging information between the official departments and organisations involved.

In the case of an incident with national implications, the Federal Civil Protection Crisis Management Board becomes active (SR 520.17). This board assesses the overall situation and possible developments. It directs the measures of the Confederation in dealing with incidents involving increased radioactivity, as well as biological, chemical and natural incidents. It ensures that the measures of the various federal authorities are coordinated and if necessary submits requests to the Federal Council.

From 1 April 2018, the Federal Civil Protection Crisis Management Board is responsible for managing all civil protection-related events at federal level – from earthquakes to pandemics and from nuclear power plant accidents to major power failures. This was decided by the Federal Council at its meeting on 2 March 2018. The intention is to improve cooperation between the agencies involved in civil protection, which is especially important in disasters or emergencies. The corresponding wholly revised Ordinance entered into force on 1 April 2018.

Based on its normal mandate, the FSVO would be responsible for any issues related to animal health, animal welfare and food safety.

The Swiss Animal Health Strategy 2022+ is aimed at all individuals, companies and organisations that are involved in any way with aspects of animal health, as animal owners, veterinarians, hunters, authorities, companies along the food chain or research institutions. There is a particular focus on animal owners in the daily handling of animals.

In line with the strategic goals of the Animal Health Strategy Switzerland 2010+, the following goals should be pursued further in order to strengthen animal health comprehensively:

1. The Swiss federal government uses its leadership role and engagement, particularly in the areas of prevention, early identification of animal diseases and crisis prevention.
2. Cantonal veterinary services standardise implementation and promote intercantonal collaboration.
3. Animal owners, veterinarians, animal health services and the industry organisations get more closely involved in decision-making processes and share responsibility in preventing, monitoring and controlling animal diseases.
4. International networking and active cooperation with institutions and organisations involved in animal health continues to be maintained and expanded as needed.
5. Animal health research is guided by the needs of animal owners and the SVS, in line with the One Health approach. Collaboration with international research partners is intensified.

#### Main focus

- Infectious diseases and zoonoses
- Digitalisation
- Strategic cooperation

#### Action plans

1. Prevention
2. Emergency preparedness
3. Control of zoonoses, notifiable and economically relevant animal diseases
4. International cooperation
5. Science, research and development

Additionally, the Swiss Veterinary Service regularly practises its emergency planning. Crisis scenarios are tested at all levels with a fictitious national animal disease outbreak. In this context, a large nationwide exercise was held in June 2011. For this purpose, an extensive outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was simulated in the whole of Switzerland.

In addition to these major national exercises the cantons hold animal disease control exercises every year, primarily for foot-and-mouth disease but also for avian influenza. In 2019, several exercises were held for African swine fever (wild boar scenario and domestic pigs' scenario).

Particularly worthy of mention is the fact that although Switzerland has a federal system, the FSVO has the authority to act in the event of highly contagious animal diseases.

- Art. 57 EzDA gives the FSVO **wide-ranging powers in case of emergency** where a highly contagious epizootic occurs or threatens to occur in Switzerland.
- Art. 59a (2) EzDA permits the FSVO **to act in place of a canton neglecting** its responsibilities.

## 3.6 Disease prevention, control and eradication

Epizootic diseases such as rabies or BSE have been eradicated in recent years and decades with the help of targeted control programmes. Precautionary measures such as inspections of animal movements and an effective veterinary service that responds immediately and consistently when diseases occur ensure that the health of the livestock population in Switzerland can be described as excellent.

### 3.6.1 Prevention

A major focus of the Animal Health Strategy Switzerland 2022+ is on the prevention of infectious diseases and zoonoses. With the change in the federal act on epizootic diseases (SR 916.40), the federal government laid the foundations for promoting the prevention of epizootic diseases and included in particular the possibility of national early detection and surveillance programmes as new functions of the federal government. The preventive measures focus on:

- Animal-friendly and hygienic animal husbandry systems: the combination of animal-friendly and hygienic animal husbandry with appropriate biosafety measures contribute a lot to a good health status.
- Reasonable breeding objectives: judicious breeding objectives and optimal management practices in feeding, animal husbandry and care ensure that the adaptability of the animals by their production performance. Thus, the occurrence of production diseases can be kept as low as possible.
- Precautions in animal transport: animal traffic control applies to horses as well as to all cloven-hoofed animals - i.e. not only cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, but also buffalo, llamas, alpacas and deer, which are held in captivity in Switzerland. They are identified after birth and recorded in a national database. Contact with other animals, relocation to other holdings, death and slaughter are registered. The aim of this system is to prevent the introduction and spread of disease in the country.
- Precautions in artificial insemination: regulations exist to minimize risk as much as possible.
- Precautions in the use of veterinary drugs: veterinary drugs are used only in close cooperation with the veterinarian. They should help to heal sick animals, without compromising the quality of animal foods.
- Safe disposal of animal by-products: a key objective of the provisions on the utilisation and disposal of animal by-products is to ensure that animal by-products do not endanger the health of people, animals and the environment.

### 3.6.2 Control and eradication

In crisis prevention, the data from early detection and surveillance programmes are also used for the evaluation of various control strategies. Risk assessment serves to determine the actions to be taken for the control of an animal disease and, if necessary, to enshrine these actions in the ordinance on epizootic diseases (SR 916.401). In addition to the scientific risk assessment, other factors, such as the social and economic aspects, are also taken into account in order to assess the measures with regard to their appropriateness and efficiency.

The control measures for each disease are laid down in the ordinance on epizootic diseases (SR 916.401) and in numerous technical directives. The cantonal veterinary offices are responsible for the enforcement of this legislation. The efforts to control animal diseases have been harmonized and implemented nationwide under the leadership of the FSVO in close cooperation with the cantons. Animal owners also take an important responsibility in the control of animal diseases.

- The mandatory reporting of animal diseases is the first principle in fighting disease. All persons dealing with animals have to report animal diseases or suspected cases of disease.
- The first step is to clarify the suspicion and to implement all necessary measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

- Restrictive measures have the purpose of preventing the spread of disease by restricting the movement of animals, people and potentially infectious material.
- After fighting a disease on an infected holding, the cleaning and disinfection of premises and equipment should ensure that re-introduced animals do not run the risk of being infected.
- Thus to avoid the possibility of the mandatory killing of infected animals posing an existential threat to the owner, financial compensation for the animal losses is paid (SR 916.401, Art. 75).

Furthermore, to ensure that the implemented measures always meet the current state of science, applied research in the field of animal health and public health is conducted and supported by the FSVO.

A standardised national funding system for the control of animal diseases and zoonoses has been evaluated. For the control of economically relevant animal diseases with no risk to humans, the costs are shared uniformly and nationwide by industry and individual animal owners.

A current example of an eradication programme in Switzerland is the BVD eradication programme. Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) is an animal disease that needs to be eradicated. It was controlled in a special programme from 2008 to 2012: first all cattle in Switzerland were tested for the BVD virus, then all newly born calves over four years. Through focused eradication of animals persistently infected with the virus (PI animals), it was possible to reduce their occurrence among newly born calves from 1.4% at the beginning to below 0.02% (December 2012).

Since 2012, the farms in which BVD has been eradicated (BVD-free farms) have been actively monitored. Under this screening programme, samples of bulk tank milk and blood samples from a group of cattle on a farm are tested to determine whether they have antibodies against BVD. Today, over 99% of Swiss cattle holdings are officially free of BVD thanks to the measures taken and the great commitment from animal owners, veterinarians and veterinary authorities.

## **3.7 Animal production food safety**

### **3.7.1 General information**

Providing safe and high-quality food of animal origin for Switzerland and export is a primary task of the FSVO. The Swiss concept of food surveillance focuses on the entire food chain (“from stable to table”). Therefore, all the critical points along the production chain of a food product are recorded. This includes the surveillance of primary production, transport, slaughter as well as processing and trade of the products. Important elements in this surveillance system are the documented self-inspection of producers and the traceability of products at all stages.

Through the animal disease prevention programs implemented and the controls performed, food of animal origin produced in Switzerland can be considered hygienically impeccable and free of health risks or harmful agents. Further information is available under the following link: <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/lebensmittel-und-ernaehrung/lebensmittelsicherheit.html>

### **3.7.2 Regulation, inspection (including audits), authorisation and supervision of establishments for production and processing of food of animal origin**

For quality assurance and monitoring throughout the food chain, the industry cooperates with federal, cantonal and municipal authorities, as well as commissioned private-sector organisations.

The food industry - from producers to the retail trade – guarantees the quality of its products through its professional work and its self-inspections. This is the most important pillar of quality assurance. The authorities provide the legal framework and monitor the self-inspections.

The cantons support the producers in their efforts to produce high-quality and safe foods. They are also responsible for enforcement of the laws and regulations throughout the food chain. They carry out on-the-spot checks and - where necessary - apply sanctions.

- The responsibilities of the cantonal veterinary services in the field of food safety are very diverse. They range from conducting checks on primary establishments with livestock and milk production to monitoring the use of veterinary medicines by the producer and the veterinarian and carrying out checks concerning slaughter. Animal welfare, animal health and hygiene are the key issues. Together with the hygienic handling of primary products, healthy, well-kept animals are a prerequisite for safe food.
- With their monitoring activities, the cantonal chemists make sure potential health risks are identified and eliminated.
- The federal government issues laws, ordinances and technical directives with the aim of ensuring that safe food is produced in a humane and environment-friendly way and that the exportability of the food is ensured. Various divisions, federal offices and federal institutions are involved in this process: the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) and the FSVO together regulate primary production, slaughter procedures, processing and the sale of food.
- All food producing establishments are obliged to implement procedures based on HACCP principles together with the implementation of good hygiene practice. The system, which is based on self-inspections, has to include sanitation controls and sanitation performance standards.
- All inspections along the food chain are done by the cantonal authorities. Cantonal Food Control is responsible for ensuring compliance with food legislation and for this purpose carries out controls in food companies and microbiological, physical, chemical and sensory analyses in the laboratory. These tests are conducted by cantonal chemists. Food inspectors and food controllers are deployed for controls in businesses that produce, process, treat, store, transport, label, advertise or sell food. They are responsible for monitoring the compliance of companies with legislation.
- The FFCU, which is run jointly by the Directors of the FOAG and FSVO, acts as a supervisory and coordinating body and lends support to the competent authorities in carrying out their tasks. One of its tasks is to supervise the enforcement at cantonal level of legislation in the areas of food safety, animal health and animal welfare.
- Furthermore, for the prevention of food-borne zoonoses, a working group "Zoonoses" has been created with the relevant partners. This group coordinates the risk assessment/analysis, the surveillance and fight against zoonoses in cooperation with the EU. The situation and measures are documented in the zoonoses reports:  
<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/tiere/publikationen/statistiken-berichte-tiere.html>
- For details of official controls along the food chain, see Annex B to the MANCP
- For results of official controls, see MANCP annual reports

### 3.7.3 Ante and post-mortem inspection at slaughter facilities and associated premises

Ante and post-mortem inspection is regulated in the ordinance on slaughter and meat inspection (SR 817.190).

#### Ante-mortem inspection

Livestock owners must announce the animals for slaughter prior to their arrival at the slaughterhouse. Each animal has to be accompanied by a health certificate and be identified appropriately. The inspection includes documentary checks and examination of the animals. Only healthy animals without apparent contamination are slaughtered. Ante-mortem inspections are done within 24 hours of arrival and in the 24 hours before slaughter. If there is any sign of divergence from normal health and husbandry conditions, animals may be isolated and undergo a more detailed clinical examination.

#### Post-mortem inspection

Post-mortem inspections are carried out immediately after slaughter. Meat inspections include the examination of any deviations, diseases (especially epizootic diseases), specified risk materials, (pathogenic) microorganisms, parasites and contaminants. Official veterinarians report the results of the

examinations to the cantonal authorities. All records are delivered to the Swiss animal movement database and kept for 3 years.

In addition to the number of slaughtered animals, the statistics on meat inspections are aimed at providing information on the number of animals slaughtered because of illness or accident. Since not all the meat of slaughtered animals is safe for the consumer, data are collected on the fitness of the meat for human consumption (e.g., reason for rejection).

#### Frequency of inspections

Permanent veterinary supervision is provided in slaughterhouses, (except in small establishments that slaughter only a small number of animals, e.g., less than 1200 cattle a year; in this case, the veterinarian is present during ante and post-mortem inspection). Inspection intervals in cutting and processing plants are risk-based and at an appropriate frequency. Normally these establishments are not inspected every day. The frequency of inspections can be summarized as follows:

- Meat inspection: all meat undergoes ante and post-mortem inspection. The procedures are the same as the EU procedures.
- Self-inspections / quality assurance: all food producing establishments are obliged to implement procedures based on HACCP principles together with the implementation of good hygiene practice. The system has to include sanitation controls and sanitation performance standards. The cantonal authorities check the self-inspections of the establishments.

### **3.8 Veterinary medicines and biologicals**

#### Ordinance for veterinary medicines

The ordinance on veterinary medicines (SR 812.212.27) provides the basic legal framework for the proper use of veterinary medicines, especially antibiotics, in animal holdings. It is based both on the therapeutic products act and on the food act. The objectives of this ordinance are:

- to ensure that all veterinary medicines, and especially antibiotics, are used properly;
- to protect consumers from unwanted residues of veterinary medicines in food of animal origin and
- to ensure that the health of animals is protected by providing animals with high-quality, safe and effective veterinary medicines.

Furthermore, the ordinance (SR 812.212.27) includes details concerning the administration, use, handling, etc. of veterinary medicines.

#### Responsibilities

The responsibilities linked to the veterinary medicines are distributed between several authorities:

- responsibility for the approval of veterinary medicines (incl. antibiotics) lies with Swissmedic, the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products (<https://www.swissmedic.ch/index.html?lang=en>);
- responsibility for coordinating, supporting and reviewing compliance with the requirements of the veterinary medicines ordinance lies with the FSVO;
- responsibility for implementation and enforcement lies within the cantonal veterinary services.

Besides the treatment of individual animals, considerable importance is attached to oral therapy for animals kept in groups. An important role in oral group treatment of animals with medicated feed is played by:

- the livestock veterinarian who prescribes medicated premixes for the treatment of groups from a certain size upwards using an official prescription form.
- the qualified person who provides for expert supervision of the establishment and proper handling of medicines. In the case of in-house systems for self-mixing of veterinary medicines

with feed, the establishment must have the written agreement of a qualified person (SR 812.212.27, Art. 19). This role may be assumed by the livestock veterinarian.

The list of authorised medicines is listed under [http://www.vetpharm.uzh.ch/perldocs/index\\_t.htm](http://www.vetpharm.uzh.ch/perldocs/index_t.htm)

### **3.9 Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial use (AMU)**

Antibiotics remain the most important medicines in the control of infectious diseases. For this reason, every effort must be made to limit the spread of resistance to antibiotics through the responsible use of these valuable medicines. Various standardised studies on antibiotic resistance in broiler poultry, fattening pigs and bovine animals have been carried out in Switzerland since 2006 as part of a national monitoring programme. This continuous monitoring of the development of resistance in zoonotic pathogens and indicator bacteria in livestock is a basic prerequisite for understanding the spread of resistance better and thus serves as a basis for the evaluation of measures to improve the situation.

In addition, the importance of this issue led to the launch of a national programme in July 2013. Together with the FVSO and the FOAG, the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) developed a strategy and draw up a programme based on this strategy. In the elaboration of the programme, objectives are to be defined and measures drawn up on subject areas such as the monitoring of resistance, the control of antibiotic use, the proper use of antibiotics, the prevention of outbreaks of disease caused by resistant microorganisms, and information for the medical profession, farmers and consumers.

As part of this strategy, therapy guidelines were produced for veterinarians – see [link](#) – and even an information system for recording antibiotic prescriptions (IS ABV “Information System AntiBiotics in Veterinary medicine”). The Swiss central IS ABV database is used by marketing authorisation holders to record their sales data, and by veterinary practices and clinics to record their antibiotic prescribing data. It makes it possible to assess the treatment intensity in livestock, and later also in pets, as well as in various forms of production (e.g., piglet rearing, calf fattening, dairy farming).

Thanks to this additional knowledge, veterinarians and livestock owners can draw conclusions about antibiotic consumption in their own practice, clinic or holding. If there are signs of excessive antibiotic use, they can investigate the causes under their own responsibility and take countermeasures. Herd health management can make an important contribution to this. Data protection is ensured for both owners and veterinarians.

For details, see <https://www.star.admin.ch/star/en/home.html>

In addition, the [FSVO publishes](#) annual data on sales of antibiotics in veterinary medicine. These data can be used to identify rising or falling sales trends for individual classes of antibiotics.

### **3.10 Residue testing, monitoring and management**

Residues of veterinary medicines must not enter the food chain. For the purpose of consumer protection, maximum concentrations (limits and tolerance values) are stipulated for residues along with a withdrawal period.

The new Ordinance on Veterinary Medicinal Products (SR 812.212.27) has been in force since 18. August 2004. This ordinance requires the accounting and documentation of all treatment with veterinary medicines, allowing a comprehensive check to be kept on the flow of goods both in private veterinary pharmacies and on farms. The aim is to ensure that veterinary medicines are used both responsibly and with restraint.

Additionally, a residue-testing programme has been in place since 2010 that is based on the FDHA Ordinance of 16 December 2016 on the Maximum Residue Levels for Pesticides in or on Products of Plant and Animal Origin (PestRO) (SR 817.021.23), the FDHA Ordinance of 16 December 2016 on Residues of Pharmacologically Active Substances and Feed Additives in Foodstuffs of Animal Origin

(RAFO) (SR 817.022.13), the FDHA Ordinance of 16 December 2016 on the Maximum Levels for Contaminants (ContO) (SR 817.022.15) and the Ordinance on Veterinary Medicinal Products (SR 812.212.27). The results of the programme not only provide an overview of the residues occurring in foods of animal origin, but its implementation also guarantees Switzerland the right to export animals and foods of animal origin to EU Member States.

The annual results can be found in the [MANCP annual report](#).

### 3.11 Animal feed safety

The research station Agroscope Liebefeld-Posieux (Agroscope), which reports to the FOAG, is responsible for the implementation of the ordinance on feed (SR 916.307). This includes in particular the monitoring of compliance with regulations on the marketing of feed, the approval of feed additives, the registration/approval and monitoring of feed companies (producers, traders, transport, etc.), and the analysis of feed samples.

Animal feed is essentially composed of cereals and vegetable proteins. A total ban on meat-and-bone meal has been in place for livestock feed since 2001. Feed mills, which use animal products for the production of pet food, either produce only pet food or have completely separate production lines and are under strict official control. The manufacturer has to provide evidence that its internal quality scheme and processing guidelines exclude the possibility of contamination. The transport is documented and has to follow strict rules with respect to cleaning procedures between individual delivery orders.

The control and audit of the effective implementation of the feed ban in feed mills processing ruminant material is carried out by the Agroscope. Samples of feed are e.g., regularly taken and analysed for meat-and-bone contamination. Each feed mill is inspected at least once a year. Random samples are taken and their analysis is carried out by microscopic detection of meat and bone fragments. Special efforts have been made for a strict control of the correct implementation of the feed ban, which has been very successful (Table 7).

**Table 6:** Number of samples taken per year (and number positive) to detect contamination with particles of land animals and results in feed mills, 2011-2021. (Source: [Agroscope Posieux](#))

Year	No. samples	No. pos.	% pos.
2011	409	0	0.0
2012	319	0	0.0
2013	348	0	0.0
2014	318	0	0.0
2015	355	0	0.0
2016	365	0	0.0
2017	316	0	0.0
2018	371	2	0.5
2019	292	0	0.0
2020	218	0	0.0
2021	folgt	folgt	

The results of official feed controls can be found in the [MANCP annual report](#).

### 3.12 Identification, traceability and movement control

#### 3.12.1 Premises, herd, batch and animal identification, tracing and movement control

The ordinance on epizootic diseases (SR 916.401) and the ordinance on the animal movements database (SR 916.404.1) regulate the registration of establishments and the reporting obligations with regard to the movement of animals, the processing of data in a centralised animal movements database and the operation of this database.

The aim of the regulations is

- to prevent diseases,
- to facilitate the control of diseases and
- to guarantee traceability.

The basis of monitoring animal movements is the registration of all establishments in which biungulates are kept. Every registered owner must carry out an inventory and must mark and identify his animals. The identities are assigned in the form of unequivocally labelled eartags on all biungulates kept in Switzerland (cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and wild animals kept in enclosures). If a biungulate is transferred to a different establishment, an accompanying document must be drawn up. This document accompanies the animal during transport and has to be kept at the establishment of destination.

The reporting of births, additions and exits, and slaughter of cattle in the animal movement database allows an animal to be traced back to its place of birth. Moreover, the equids kept in Switzerland have been registered since 1 January 2011. Regulations on the transport of animals, the organisation of markets and exhibitions, alpine pasturing and wintering and the livestock trade likewise serve to prevent diseases.

In addition, the registration of poultry farms is obligatory. This also applies to hobby farms. The objectives of this registration are the monitoring of animal health, the control of animal diseases and the traceability of food of animal origin.

### 3.12.2 Identification, traceability and control of products of animal origin

Foodstuffs, livestock used for producing food and substances that can be expected to be processed as food must be traceable across all stages of production, processing and distribution. For this reason, for example, biungulates are given corresponding eartags and every production batch is assigned its own unique number. This makes it possible to recall compromised food and trace any deficiencies back to primary production (SR 817.02, Art. 83).

The producers guarantee high quality standards at all stages of production from the stable to the table. Efficient self-inspections play an important role here. Self-inspections are carried out and documented in every process. These documents are the basis for any corrective action. They are usually kept for 3 years and are examined when the establishment in question is checked (e.g. checks on the self-inspection system). The producers are supported at all stages by the authorities. These bodies ensure compliance with the requirements of the law and provide for an appropriate check on self-inspections. The authorities and producers both help to achieve the shared objective: production of safe and high-quality food.

## 3.13 Animal welfare

The federal act on animal welfare (SR 455) serves to protect animals and ensure their welfare; it regulates the way animals are treated. Its main principle is that pain, damage and suffering must not be unjustifiably inflicted on an animal, nor must any animal be subjected to severe anxiety. The neglect, overexertion or mistreatment of animals is prohibited.

Furthermore, animal experiments are subject to especially strict legal requirements. Research work on behaviour and appropriate animal husbandry provides the FSVO with the basic framework for the elaboration of legal regulations and for information work.

The Animal Welfare division of the FSVO is responsible for technical advice and training in the field of pets and livestock animals as well as for research related to proper animal holding/housing. In addition, the division serves as the federal supervisory authority for the approval of animal testing and is responsible for information on approved animal experiments and for their documentation.

The enforcement of animal welfare legislation is the responsibility of the cantonal authorities. Based on the manuals compiled for animal welfare controls in farm animals by the FSVO, regular audits at the farm level are thus performed by the cantonal veterinary offices thus to ensure that the legislation is properly implemented. In the ordinance on animal welfare (SR 455.1), which came into effect on 1 September 2008, the following controls are stipulated:

- Agricultural animal holdings, Art. 213
- Wild animal holdings requiring a licence, Art. 214
- Pet shops, Art. 215
- Commercial pet keepers and breeders, animal homes, Art 215
- Experimental animal holdings and animal experiments, Art. 216
- Animal transport, Art. 217
- Verification of control activities of third parties, Art. 218

Animal welfare controls in agricultural businesses that receive direct payments are carried out in the context of ecological payment reviews. All agricultural animal holdings – including businesses and holdings not entitled to direct payments – have to be included in the controls. A few veterinary services have also delegated the control of non-ecological payment businesses to accredited control organisations.

Additional ordinances such as SR 455.102.4 - FSVO Ordinance of 4 December 2014 on Animal Welfare in Breeding, SR 455.109.1 - FDHA Ordinance of 5 September 2008 on Training Qualifications in Animal Husbandry and Animal Care (TSchAV), SR 455.110.1 - FSVO Ordinance of 27 August 2008 on the Keeping of Farm Animals and Pets, SR 455.110.2 - FSVO Ordinance of 12 August 2010 on Animal Welfare at Slaughter (AWSO) and SR 455.110.3 - FSVO Ordinance of 2 February 2015 on the Keeping of Wild Animals (Wildtierverordnung BLV) explain articles of the Animal Protection Ordinance (SR 455.1).

For details of official controls, see Annex B to the MANCP.

## **4 Interaction with stakeholders**

### **4.1 Communication**

The Communications division of the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) serves as an interface between the public and officials and aims to keep the public informed in a timely, targeted and transparent manner. It coordinates relations with the media and is responsible for the official representation of the FSVO and provides a focal point for the people, where the public may ask questions on the keeping of animals, travel with animals and the safety of food. In addition to the publicly accessible internet, there is also a password-protected extranet, which ensures the flow of information to the cantonal authorities. As described in section 2.5.1, there are numerous coordination platforms between the FSVO and the cantonal authorities.

### **4.2 Consultation with stakeholders**

The FSVO actively consults with and solicits feedback from interested parties regarding proposed and current activities and programmes, developments in animal health and food safety, as well as interventions at the international level. Because it is impossible to ensure an effective implementation of regulations without the approval of the interested parties, these parties are systematically involved in the activities of the FSVO from the outset.

### **4.3 Official representation and international collaboration**

The FSVO participates actively and regularly in meetings of international organisations (e.g., WOA, WTO, Codex Alimentarius). When preparing the official position of the FSVO, experts (within or outside the FSVO) are consulted and their opinions are taken into consideration. If required and possible, interested parties may be included in the delegation. After such international meetings, feedback on the relevant issues are provided to the experts involved.

Switzerland also participates in EU bodies, and FSVO representatives based in Brussels (Belgium) continually provide information on current developments in veterinary matters in the EU.

### **4.4 Accreditation / authorisation / delegation**

Where provided for by the nominal law, accredited private organisations may be called in to perform controls according to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). The Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS) is responsible for all accreditation in legally regulated and non-regulated areas. As a federal institution, it operates on the basis of the accreditation and designation ordinance (SR 946.512). Further information can be found under <https://www.sas.admin.ch/sas/en/home.html> .

Apart from the material supervisory role which the FSVO has to perform, an accreditation function is also enshrined in law for control bodies in various areas of control according to the accreditation and designation ordinance (SR 946.512). In general, this requirement concerns laboratories (public and private) that carry out tests in the context of animal disease surveillance and food monitoring. In the field of inspections, the private inspection organisations contracted to perform official inspections must be accredited.

#### 4.5 Regulation of the profession by the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB)

In Switzerland, there is no corresponding independent state authority. However, three elements which allow an approximation to the Veterinary Statutory Body may be mentioned.

- Society of Swiss Veterinarians (GST/SVS): As an umbrella organisation, the GST/SVS represents the professional interests of independent and salaried veterinarians. It is a private organisation. Membership is therefore optional for veterinarians.
- Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH): the FOPH is responsible for training in various health professions (including the veterinary profession). It aims primarily to ensure the quality of training, postgraduate training and development on the basis of the federal act on medical professions (SR 811.11), which defines among other things the minimum knowledge to be acquired for the title of "veterinarian".
- The further education and training of official veterinarians is described in chapter 2.2. and is based on the ordinance on the training, further training and continuing education of people in the public veterinary service (SR 916.402).

#### 4.6 Participation of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes

Interested and concerned parties are systematically involved in the elaboration of new or ongoing programmes. The concept of public-private partnership is an essential element in the way the FSVO works. Two examples may be underlined:

- Control or eradication programmes: when control programmes for diseases that have a strong economic component are elaborated and put in place, the private sector is involved not only for its expertise, but also contributes financially to the programme. The private sector is thus embedded in the activities of the FSVO.
- Animal health services: the health services for pigs, sheep, goats, deer, bovines and honeybee are private self-help organisations with essentially the same goals as the official veterinary services. They indirectly support the official veterinary services because they strengthen the personal responsibility of farmers by providing information, education and advice. They therefore also receive financial support through public funding and are included in the elaboration of the programmes.

#### 4.7 Veterinary clinical services

Switzerland has a very well-developed network of veterinary practices. Animal owners have access to general veterinary practices, specialised veterinary practices and clinics, and two university animal hospitals.

Under the revised Medical Professions Act, from 1 January 2018 all university-qualified medical personnel working in Switzerland are listed in the [Register of Medical Professions](#). This shows that there are around 5,137 veterinarians registered in Switzerland, around 2,473 of whom hold a professional licence. It can therefore be assumed that there are approximately 2,400 practising veterinarians in Switzerland.

The Society of Swiss Veterinarians ([GST](#)) is an umbrella organisation representing the professional interests of 3,000 members vis-à-vis government, authorities, related associations and partners. GST promotes and preserves the positive image of the veterinarian in society through targeted public relations work. Membership of the GST is not compulsory.

Following veterinary studies ending in a federal diploma, there are various opportunities in Switzerland for further professional training and specialisation. Under the [Medical Professions Act](#) (Art. 40 letter b MedPA), veterinarians are obliged to deepen, expand and improve their knowledge and skills by means of continuing education throughout the duration of their professional activity.

Specialist veterinarians (FVH) are specialised in a particular group of animals (small animals, ruminants, pigs, horses) or have completed further training in pathology or special fields of laboratory medicine. This further training lasts at least 3 years.

The GST certificate of competence (FA) confirms particular competence in a specialist area. These areas include specialisations in herd medicine, equine dentistry and animal physiotherapy, as well as various areas of complementary medicine such as homeopathy, acupuncture, chiropractic, osteopathy and phytotherapy. This further training lasts at least 10 days, excluding the examination.

The GST certificate of proficiency (FZ) confirms practical ability in a defined sub-area. These certificates are required to exercise particular veterinary activities. For example: FZ Identification of horses / equine passport GST, FZ Integrated veterinary herd management Basic level pigs, FZ Integrated veterinary herd management – Targeted sampling PLUS (pigs), etc.

## 5 Access to markets

### 5.1 Veterinary legislation

#### 5.1.1 Legal quality and coverage

The legislative process in the Confederation is characterised by a broad, very systematic and transparent involvement of actors (people, parliament, Federal Council and Administration, cantons, parties, associations and so on), especially in constitutional and legislative procedures.

Two groups of actors are comparatively heavily involved in the pre- and post-parliamentary legislative process, namely the cantons and civil society, the latter in the form of political parties and interested groups (SR 101, Art. 45 and 147). Particular consideration is given to the statements of the cantons when questions concerning the implementation of federal law is concerned (SR 101, Art. 46). The collegial principle in government is shown in the equality of the offices in the office consultation procedure and of the departments in the co-reporting procedure. An "office consultation" is defined as follows: in the office consultation, the office in question sends the interested organizations (federal offices, general secretariats and the Federal Chancellery) the draft of a proposal to the Federal Council for comment. The office considers their comments before submitting the proposal to the Department for signature.

It is ensured that the public is informed about all the important stages. Above all the information regarding the following steps are not only done passively (through free access to official documents) but also actively:

- initiation of the preliminary work,
- involvement of a committee of experts,
- report of the committee of experts,
- initiation of the consultation procedure,
- notice of the result of the consultation and decision on the next steps,
- adoption of message
- draft bill.

Veterinary legislation covers the entire veterinary domain.

#### Legislations related to international trade

International trade is controlled by the regulations dated 18 April 2007 concerning the import, export and transit of animals and animal products (SR 916.443.10) and the federal act of 16 March 2012 on the trade in protected animal and plant species (SR 453).

The first of these regulations applies to the import, transit and export of:

- animals;
- animal semen, unfertilised eggs and embryos;
- foods of animal origin;
- foods that include some food of animal origin;
- animal by-products;
- hay and straw; and
- other substances that may be carriers of disease.

The regulations are updated regularly according to the state of the art in science and technology and industry conventions. The relevant stakeholders are included in the procedure related to such updates (see above).

#### 5.1.2 Implementation and compliance

The responsibility for implementing veterinary legislation lies mainly with the cantons, with the exception of checks at the border inspection points (Zurich and Geneva airports). Details of implementation can be found in Annex B to the MANCP, and the results can be found in the MANCP annual report.

## 5.2 International harmonisation

The FSVO actively and regularly participates at the technical and strategic level in the formulation, negotiation and adoption of international standards. It takes part in the relevant meetings (e.g., WOAHA, Codex Alimentarius, WTO, etc.). The international standards are used to harmonise the national legislation.

## 5.3 International certification

Switzerland acknowledges the importance of the official recognition of disease status by the WOAHA and its significance for international trade. Therefore, whenever possible, the Swiss Veterinary Service gathers data based on the national surveillance programmes and submits an official request to the WOAHA to be granted an officially recognized disease status. As of July 2018, Switzerland is officially recognized as:

- free from african horse sickness according to the provisions of Chapter 12.1. of the Terrestrial Code,
- free from foot and mouth disease without vaccination according to the provisions of Chapter 8.6. of the Terrestrial Code,
- having a negligible risk regarding bovine spongiform encephalopathy in accordance with Chapter 11.5. of the Terrestrial Code
- free from peste des petits ruminants according to the provisions of Chapter 14.8. of the Terrestrial Code
- free from rinderpest, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.13. of the Terrestrial Code
- free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia according to the provisions of the Chapter 11.8. of the Terrestrial Code.
- free from classical swine fever according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2 of the Terrestrial code

Furthermore, the Swiss Veterinary Service conducts annual risk-based surveys (SR 916.401; Art. 130). The random sample size for the national surveys is designed to prove a herd prevalence of 0.2% with 99% confidence. The list of diseases from which Switzerland is considered free (official and self-declared) is published on the website of the FSVO under

<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/tiere/publikationen/statistiken-berichte-tiere.html>

See also table 6, section 3.4

According to Swiss legislation, the cantonal food / veterinary offices issue export health certificates for animals, genetics, food of animal origin and foodstuffs. They implement and enforce food and veterinary laws at cantonal level and therefore carry out the official inspections and controls in the establishments.

Each export certificate is validated by an official of the cantonal food / veterinary office with a uniform but uniquely numbered export stamp (Figure 10). A list of the cantons as well as contact addresses can be found under

<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/das-blv/organisation/veterinaerdienst-schweiz.html>



**Figure 17:** Template of an export stamp (blue or red colour) for products from Switzerland (xxx is the name of the canton, yyyy is the unique number of the stamp).

Furthermore, the corresponding central competent authority, which is the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), has its own stamps, which may be used, if required, for the confirmation of certificates validated by the cantonal authorities.

## 5.4 Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements

### 5.4.1 Agreement between Switzerland and the European Union

In 1999 the Agriculture Agreement (SR 0.916.026.81) was signed between the EU and Switzerland. Annex 11, the Veterinary Agreement lays the foundations for broad consensus on the regulations of the EU and Switzerland for controlling animal diseases, so that they produce the same results. This will then lead to comparable conditions of trade between Switzerland and EU Member States. The Veterinary Agreement covers:

- the control of and reporting of certain animal diseases,
- the trade in live animals, their semen or ova and embryos as well as animal products,
- the importing of these animals and products from third countries,
- zootechnics,
- aspects of food safety
- and animal welfare.

Due to the creation of a common veterinary area in 2008, the Veterinary Agreement widened to include the following items:

- veterinary border controls for EU states were abolished,
- BIP's in conformity with the EU were set up at the airports of Zurich and Geneva for veterinary border inspections of imports from third countries.

To ensure effective collaboration between Switzerland and the EU in the event of the detection of a listed animal disease, Switzerland is fully linked via a computerized network to the veterinary authorities of the European Commission and individual Member States of the EU through the Trade Network and Expert System (TRACES) and the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS). Furthermore, Switzerland participates in different working groups and meetings of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFAH).

More information can be found under <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/import-und-export/rechts-und-vollzugsgrundlagen/hilfsmittel-und-vollzugsgrundlagen/traces.html> and <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/das-blv/kooperationen.html>

### 5.4.2 Agreement between Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein

The Principality of Liechtenstein is fully integrated into the Swiss system in the veterinary field. The legal basis is the Customs Union Treaty (SR 0.631.112.514), which entered into force on 1 January 1924 ([http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c0\\_631\\_112\\_514.html](http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c0_631_112_514.html)).

With regard to the applicable legislation in the Principality, the Principality of Liechtenstein has the same legal position as the Swiss cantons. Switzerland and Liechtenstein form a "common veterinary area". Some key articles of the Customs Union Treaty (informal translation into English) are listed here:

Art. 1

1) The territory of the Principality of Liechtenstein is included in the Swiss customs territory and forms part of it. [...]

Art. 4

1) Based on the customs union, provisions [regarding point 1 [...] below] already in force in Switzerland at the beginning of the treaty, as well as those entering into force during its duration, are applicable in Liechtenstein in the same way as in Switzerland:

1. the whole Swiss customs legislation;
2. Swiss federal legislation, as far as the customs union requires its application.

2) All those provisions are excluded which establish payment obligations by federal authorities.

Art. 6

With regard to the applicable legislation in the Principality according to article 4 and 5, the Principality of Liechtenstein has the same legal position as the Swiss cantons.

Art. 7

Because of the Customs Union Treaty, Swiss trade and customs treaties with third countries are applicable in the Principality of Liechtenstein in the same way as in Switzerland, whereby Switzerland may reserve its obligations stemming from existing treaties.

#### 5.4.3 Agreement between Switzerland and Norway

Switzerland's Trilateralisation Agreement with Norway - Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Kingdom of Norway on measures of veterinary hygiene in the trade in live animals, their semen, ova and embryos, as well as animal products (SR 0.916.443.959.81) – came into force on 1 May 2012.

Switzerland and Norway have thus acknowledged the equivalence of their regulations for the trade in live animals, their semen, ova and embryos, as well as animal products, and they commit to apply the same measures and trade conditions in mutual trade. The scope corresponds to Annex 11 of the Agricultural Agreement between the EU and Switzerland (see Veterinary Agreement). The European veterinary area thus officially consists of the EU, Norway and Switzerland (with Liechtenstein).

#### 5.4.4 Agreement between Switzerland and New Zealand

Switzerland's Trilateralisation Agreement with New Zealand - Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and New Zealand on measures of veterinary hygiene in the trade in live animals and animal products (SR 0.916.443.961.41) - came into force on 1 May 2012. The scope of the Switzerland - New Zealand agreement covers live animals, their semen, ova and embryos, as well as animal products. It applies to the following animal species: bovine animals, pigs, equids, poultry and hatching eggs, aquaculture, sheep, goats and animals as specified in Council Directive 92/65/EEC. The legislation of both countries is thus basically equivalent, and the same framework conditions apply for trade between Switzerland and New Zealand, provided this is handled within the scope of this agreement, as applies for trade between the EU and New Zealand.

## 5.5 Transparency

The FSVO regularly informs interested parties of changes in the relevant regulations and decisions on the control of relevant diseases and of the country's sanitary status, and of changes in the regulations and sanitary status of other countries. The official and self-declared disease status is published on the website of the FSVO under <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/tiere/publikationen/statistiken-berichte-tiere.html>.

See also table 8, section 3.5.

Furthermore, the nominated WOAH national focal point for notification within the FSVO reports any important epidemiological event in Switzerland within 24 hours of its occurrence, in consultation with the Chief Veterinary Officer, and reports regularly on the presence or absence of diseases on the WOAH list and on the prevention and control measures applied.

Information on all outbreaks of notifiable diseases in Switzerland since 1991 is available on the FSVO database infoSM (= information system for cases of notifiable diseases)

<https://www.infosm.blv.admin.ch/info>

## 5.6 Zoning

Articles 9 and 10 of the federal act on epizootic diseases (SR 916.40) stipulate that the Confederation and the cantons must take any action which, according to the state of knowledge and experience, may prevent the emergence and spread of an epidemic. This includes, among other things, the establishment of zones to delimit animals geographically according to their health status. The movement of animals and animal products may thus be restricted to a region to protect other parts of the country or a neighbouring country from infection. The authorities may also declare certain areas free from defined animal diseases, where these diseases have not been observed during a specified period of time.

For example, in the case of foot-and-mouth disease (see Art. 100, EzDO, SR 916.401), the cantonal veterinarian imposes the enhanced restriction (Art. 71) on holdings that are infected, suspected of being infected, or potentially contaminated. (An enhanced restriction is imposed in the case of highly contagious epizootic diseases where, in addition to restrictions on movements of animals and persons, restrictions on movements of goods are required in order to prevent the spread of the disease.) The enhanced restriction on potentially contaminated holdings can be converted into a simple grade 2 restriction after five days if no clinical symptoms are detected. (A simple grade 2 restriction is imposed where, in addition to a ban on animal movements, restrictions on movements of persons are required in order to prevent the spread of the disease.)

The enhanced restriction on the infected holding is converted to a simple grade 2 restriction after culling of all animals of susceptible species and once cleaning and disinfection have been completed. The simple grade 2 restriction is lifted, at the earliest, 21 days after disinfection. After the end of this period the holding is subject to the restrictions applying to the zone in which it is located.

## 5.7 Compartmentalisation

The concept of compartmentalisation is not described as such in the Swiss legislation. However, it is possible, if needed, to define compartments in the context of the control of a disease or of an outbreak.