

The surveillance and control programme for bovine tuberculosis in Norway

*Ståle Sviland
Berit Djønne*



Surveillance and control programmes for terrestrial and aquatic animals in Norway

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Project managers at the Norwegian Veterinary Institute:
Ståle Sviland and Hege Hellberg

Publisher
Norwegian Veterinary Institute
PO Box 750 Sentrum
N-0106 Oslo
Norway

Fax: + 47 23 21 60 01
Tel: + 47 23 21 60 00
E-mail: postmottak@vetinst.no
www.vetinst.no

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Authors:
Ståle Sviland, Berit Djønne

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The surveillance and control programme for bovine tuberculosis In Norway 2011

Sviland Ståle, Djønne Berit

In 2011, samples from one cattle for Mycobacterium sp. examination was submitted from post-mortem of fallen stock.

Introduction

Apart from two single-herd outbreaks in Sogn og Fjordane county in 1984 and 1986 Norway has been considered free from bovine tuberculosis since 1963 (1, 2,). And since 1994, the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) has recognised Norway as officially free from bovine tuberculosis, as described in ESA Decision 225/96/COL replacing ESA Decision 67/94/COL. In 2000, a surveillance and control programme for bovine tuberculosis was launched. The programme includes compulsory veterinary inspection of all bovine carcasses at slaughter, with submission of suspicious materials to the Norwegian Veterinary Institute for further examination.

Aims

The aims of the programme are to document absence of bovine tuberculosis, according to Directive 64/432/EEC with amendments, and to contribute to the maintenance of this favourable situation.

Material and methods

Submission of material from slaughterhouses

Lung tissue, lymph nodes and other organs with pathological lesions where bovine tuberculosis can not be excluded, are submitted for examination.

The Food Safety Authority collects the samples during routine meat inspection.

Histopathological examination

Tissues are fixed in 10 % neutral phosphate-buffered formalin for more than 24 hours, processed according to a standard routine protocol, embedded in paraffin, sectioned at 5 µm and stained with haematoxylin and eosin and Ziehl-Neelsen (4).

Bacteriological examination

Samples are examined as described in the OIE manual (3). Samples are homogenised, decontaminated with 5 % oxalic acid and centrifuged. The top layer of the sediment is used for culturing and microscopic examination. The sediment is inoculated onto slopes of Petragnani medium, Stonebrink's medium and Middelbrook 7H10 medium. The slopes are incubated aerobically at 37 °C for two months and checked every week for growth of acid-fast bacilli, determined by the Ziehl-Neelsen method.

Results and discussion

Table 1 shows the number of samples collected and the results since the programme started in 2000. In 2011, samples from one cattle were submitted.

The low number of submitted samples indicates a low prevalence of suspicious pathological lesions. Continuous surveillance by veterinary meat inspection, early and effective eradication campaigns, combined with restricted import of live cattle, have contributed significantly to this situation.

Table 1. Number of samples tested for bovine tuberculosis during the period 2000-2011

Year	No. of samples	No. of herds	No. of positive	
			Samples	Herds
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	3	3	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	1	1	0	0
2004	4	4	0	0
2005	1	1	0	0
2006	3	3	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	4	2	0	0
2009	1	1	0	0
2010	1	1	0	0
2011	1	1	0	0

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