

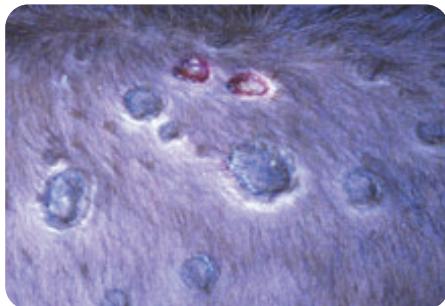
DISEASE IN-FOCUS: **LUMPY SKIN DISEASE**

What is lumpy skin disease?

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a highly infectious disease of cattle and buffalo that does not affect humans. The disease is caused by a virus similar to sheep pox and goat pox and mostly transmitted by biting insects.

About the disease

The disease has never been recorded in Australia and is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa, parts of the Middle East and Turkey. It is established in South-East Europe, Kazakhstan and Russia.



In 2019 lumpy skin disease was reported for the first time in Bangladesh, China and India. In 2020 there were reports of it in Taiwan, Nepal, Vietnam, Bhutan, Hong Kong and Myanmar. In 2021, outbreaks occurred in Thailand and Malaysia. In March 2022, the Indonesian government reported an outbreak of LSD involving over 30 villages on the island of Sumatra.

What are the signs of LSD in cattle?

- Firm, raised nodules up to 50 mm in diameter develop on the skin around the head, neck, genitals and limbs.
- Scabs develop in the centres of the nodules after which the resultant scabs ('sitfasts') fall off, leaving large, holes that may become infected.
- Swelling of the limbs, brisket and genitals may also occur.
- LSD virus can persist in scabs for up to four months after infection.

Why don't we want it?

LSD is one of the biggest biosecurity threats to Australia's cattle (and buffalo) industries; the effect on products would be significant. Major disruptions to exports of meat, dairy and other bovine-derived animal products would be expected.

It is critical that cattle producers be aware of what lumpy skin disease looks like and report any signs of the disease observed in their cattle immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 or their local veterinarian.

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

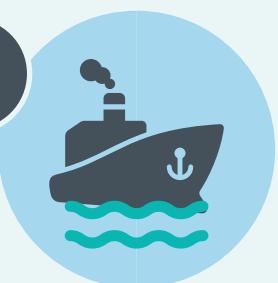
How is it spread?

1



LSD is mainly spread by biting insects e.g. mosquitoes, biting flies and ticks. Additionally, the movement of infected animals can result in local or long distance spread of the disease.

2



Introduction of the disease via insects entering Australia on aircraft or on ships represents a relatively low risk because LSD has a short survival time in insects, and the numbers of vectors entering Australia in this way would be low.

3



The presence of LSD in Australia would affect exports of cattle and their products, reducing the value of the cattle industry. Therefore, it is important to report any signs of unusual skin lesions in cattle.