

Message from CFIA

Schmallenberg Virus in Europe

February 9, 2012: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is closely monitoring the emergence of the Schmallenberg virus in ruminant livestock in Europe.

Based on what is known about this virus, and what we know about similar viruses, there does not appear to be any immediate danger to Canadian livestock. As well, there is no evidence to date that indicates the virus is associated with any human illness.

Canada does not allow live cattle, sheep or goats to be imported from Europe.

To allow for a harmonized response, the CFIA is working with US officials to gather information and assess the situation. The CFIA will also seek input from provincial and territorial governments and the livestock industry.

More information will be shared as it becomes available.

The Schmallenberg virus belongs to a group of viruses that is transmitted by vectors (that is, ticks, midges and biting flies). This makes direct animal-to-animal transmission unlikely. In Europe, it appears to be causing non-specific symptoms (fever, diarrhea, reduced milk yield, etc.) and birth defects in ruminants.

For [more information on the Schmallenberg virus and the situation in Europe](#), visit the European Union's website.

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