

# *Foot-and-mouth disease*

Experiences with eradicating the disease  
in Hungary

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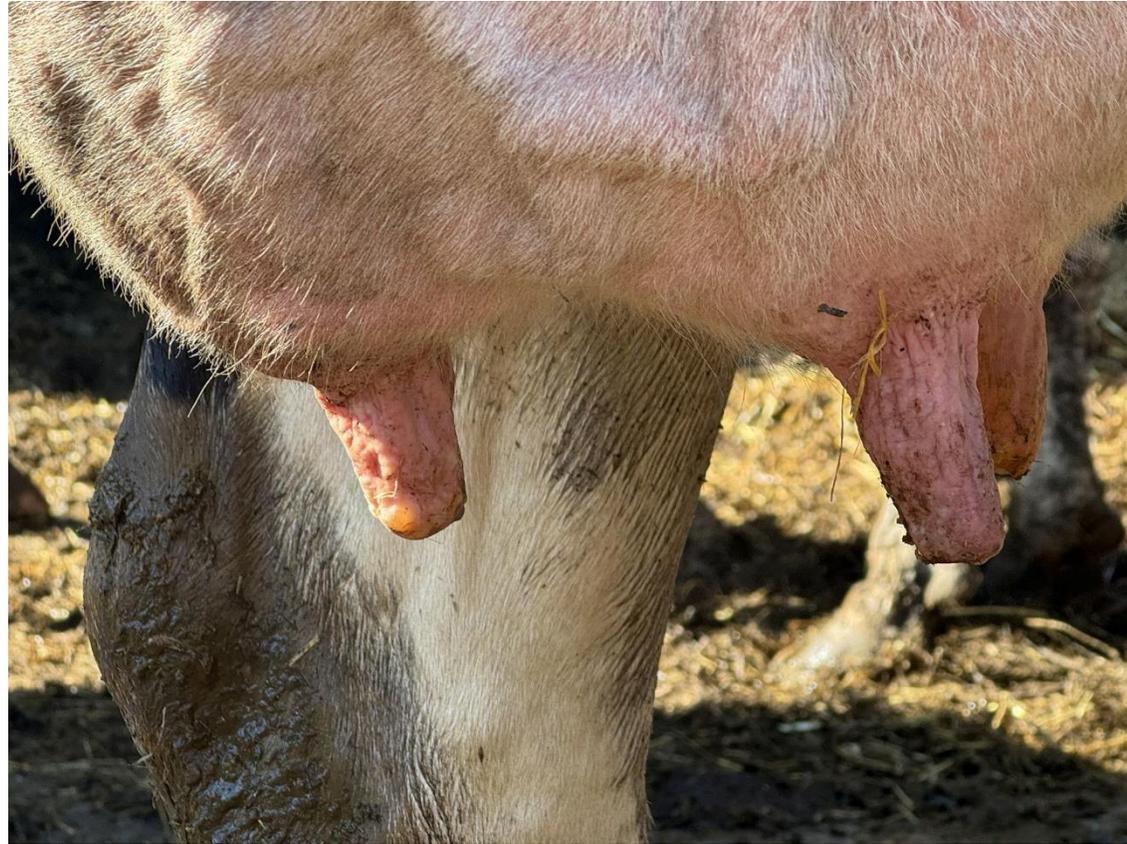
Visegrád Vet Plus 2025.

- Confirmation– immediate measures
- Organization, resources
- Operational tasks
  - Culling
  - Disposal
  - Disinfection
  - Census and testing
- Livestock in restricted areas
- Communication
- Experience, conclusions

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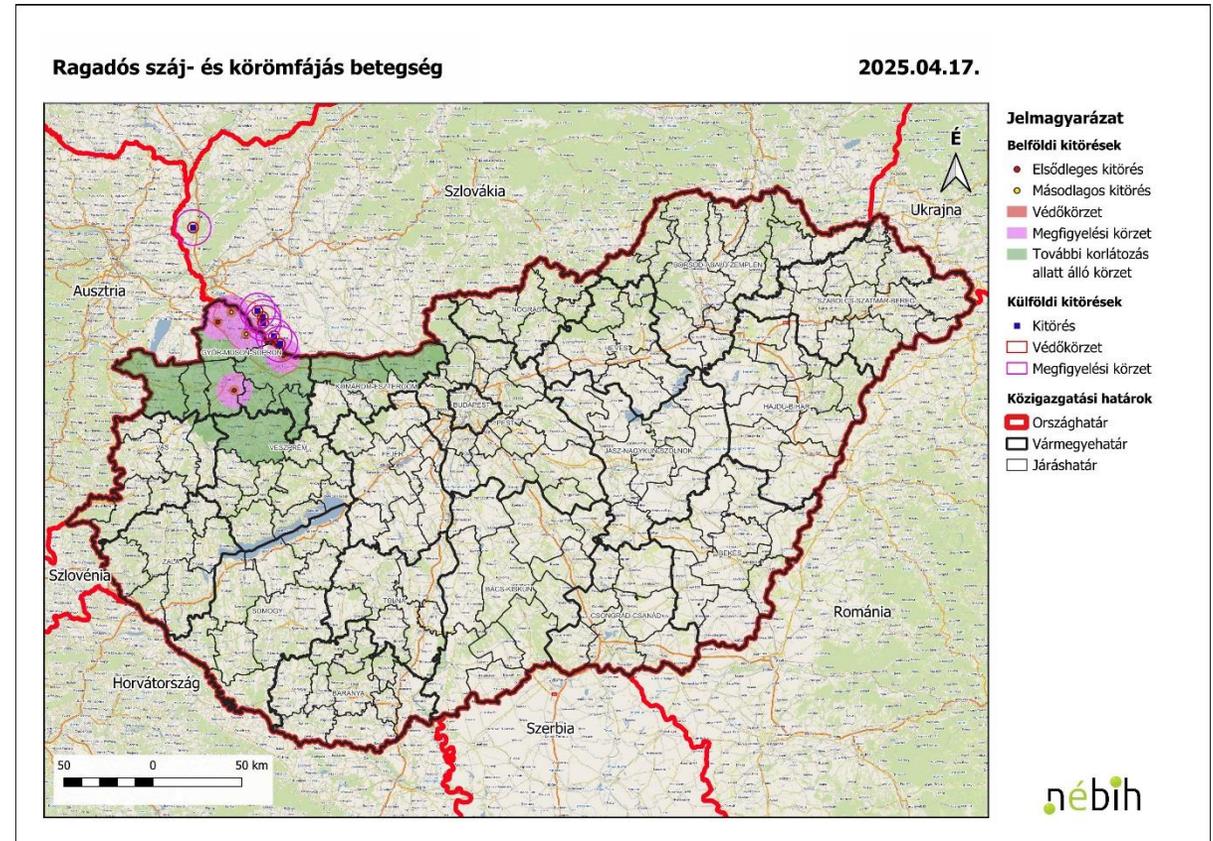
## Confirmation

It has not been seen in Hungary for more than 50 years.



# FMD outbreaks

Outbreaks	Number of animals affected
1. Outbreak - Kisbajcs	1677
2. Outbreak - Levél	3112
3. Outbreak - Darnózseli	1051
4. Outbreak– Dunakiliti	2597
5. Outbreak - Rábapordány	10763
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 200</b>

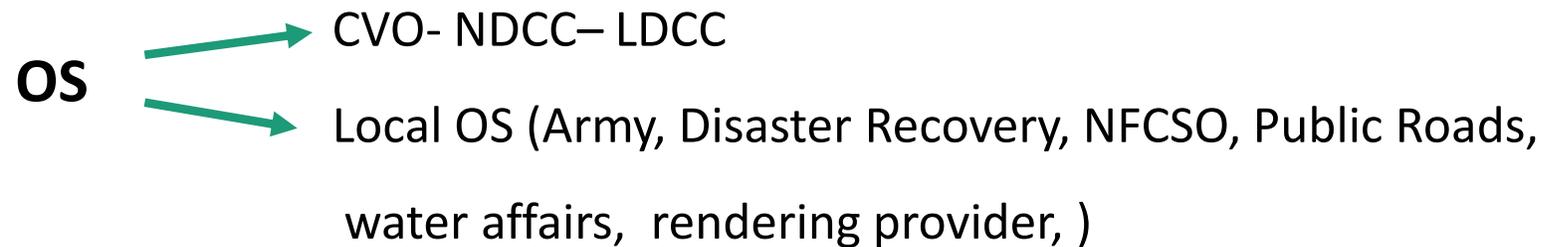


# Local Disease Control Center (LDCC), Animal Health Operational Staff (OS)

LDCC - Established in Győr-Moson-Sopron County in accordance with the relevant legal requirements and with contingency plan provisions for animal health.

From the initial confirmation, **ordered, organized, and carried out** the restrictive, killing, and disposal measures.

- At the third outbreak (in Darnózseli) the local Operational Staff was formed, whose **organization system and available resources strengthened the effectiveness.**



The main **measure of efficiency** under OT management **was short-term execution**, full capacity was used for slaughtering and burying.

# National FMD Expert Group

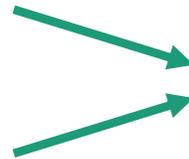
- *Virology Working Group,*
- *Epidemiological Investigation Working Group,*
- *Risk Assessment and Genomics Working Group,*
- *Animal and Animal product Transport and Trade Working Group,*
- *Disposal Working Group,*
- *Wildlife Health Working Group,*
- *Surveillance Working Group,*
- *Epidemic Prevention Working Group,*
- *Working Group on Native and/or High Genetic Value Animals*

# Hungarian Veterinary Chamber

- Private veterinarians

# University of Veterinary Medicine

- Students



Census – blood sampling

# Hunting Associations

## Culling herds

- Due to the characteristics of the disease, the only solution is to cull susceptible animals in strict compliance with the animal health and animal welfare legislation in force, using a fixed penetrating device, by destroying the medulla oblongata,
  - in a humane manner, by persons with the appropriate expertise,
  - trained, qualified persons, **but not local persons** needed.
  - Due to time factors, a significant number of professionals – butchers – were required.
  - **Members of professional bodies** with qualifications in this field were commanded.

## Disposal of culled animals

- (rendering facilities → long distance, extremely high risk)
- Incineration: slow, highly polluting, and dangerous)
- **burial**
  - safe and accepted method, continuous official supervision,
  - dedicated staff,
  - transportation in closed, approved, secure, leak-proof vehicles
  - enhanced disinfection
  - It was not possible locally due to the area of the settlements and the wetland/floodplain environment.



# Burial :

## Selecting a location :

Professional aspects  
(groundwater level, clay seal layer)

**Public protest!!!**

## Area guarding and defence :

(fence, 24-hour security, airspace closure, drone protection)

## Continuous work :

(petrol, crew, lighting)

## Monitoring wells :

(installation, regular water sampling and testing)



## Sampling, laboratory tests

- Total number of farms tested : 2.817
- Total number of PCR tests: more than 48.500– negative
- Total number of ELISA tests: more than 180.000– negative
- Wild animal: approximately: 5.140– negative
  - Total census: more than 500 keepers, more than 12,000 animals
  - All contacts (milk collection, ATEV, etc.): 57 different holders, approximately 12,600 animals.

## Disinfection points

- Their numbers grew as the epidemic escalated
  - affected livestock farms
  - affected settlements (access roads)
  - Borders
  - Along the M1 motorway

It was difficult to ensure the necessary preconditions everywhere.

- disinfectant mat pairs 2,5-3 m<sup>3</sup> water/day
- appropriate staff  
(It had to be refilled every 30 minutes)
- traffic slowdown, traffic cones
- replacement of damaged mats



Fotó: Military of Hungary



Fotó: Kisalfold.hu



# Information flow and preparedness

- Continuous information to national and local media
- Thematic website: restrictions, measures, map, FAQ (also available on social media).
- Information transfer to stakeholders: manufacturers, farmers, professional organizations

Press releases	
Radio and television	~800
Newspaper	~400
Online articles	~4700
<b>In total</b>	<b>~5900</b>

## Ragadós száj- és körömfájás járvány kapcsán elrendelt hazai intézkedések



Legutóbbi frissítés: 2025.04.03. 10:40

A betegség továbbterjedésének megakadályozása érdekében az országos állatorvos rendkívül szigorú hatósági intézkedéseket rendelt el.

A védő- és megfigyelési körzeteket bemutató országos térkép, illetve az érintett vármegyék ábrázoló térkép, valamint a korlátozásokkal érintett települések listája megtalálható a [Nébih ragadós száj- és körömfájás tematikus oldalán](#).

A ragadós száj- és körömfájással kapcsolatos, folyamatosan frissülő [kereskedelmi információk](#) olvashatók a Nébih honlapján.

### 1. Valamennyi korlátozás alá eső területre vonatkozó intézkedések

- A korlátozott területekre tilos a fogékony állatok beszállítása
- Az RSZKF-re fogékony állatok harmadik országokba, illetve más tagállamba történő kiszállítása bármilyen célra tilos.
- Tilos **minden állatfajt** bemutató vásár, bemutató, rendezvény megtartása 2025. április 22-ig.

## RSZKF aktuális járványügyi helyzet - The current epidemiological situation of FMD

frissítve: 2025.06.02., 16:56



\*Farms tested with negative results \*\*Infected farms



## Vizsgált vadhús - Tested wild game meat





# FMD communication

- The basic prerequisite for the effective control of an infectious animal disease epidemic is cooperation between livestock owners and the population, and the authorities. Livestock keepers must be familiar with the most important symptoms of the disease and other necessary information.
- **NFCSO** has created a **thematic web page** where livestock keepers can find information about the development of the epidemic and the disease: <https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/rsz kf>
- The website provides **up-to-date information** on restricted areas, **current movement restrictions, animal transport rules, and the development of the epidemic**. In addition, the website features a continuously expanding **FAQ section** and informative publications available for download.
- In addition to this, in order to refresh and disseminate knowledge about the disease, NFCSO has distributed **training materials and leaflets** on Foot-and- mouth disease, which are also available on mobile phones, to official veterinarians, private veterinarians, relevant interprofessional organizations, professional organizations, game management organizations, and forestry organizations.
  - <https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/rsz kf-kereskedelmi-informaciok>
  - <https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/kitoresek-es-mentessegek>
  - <https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/allategeszsegugyi-es-allatvedelmi-jogszabaly-es-linkgyujtemeny>

## Meat from susceptible animals kept in restricted areas



- Due to the occurrence of foot-and-mouth disease, susceptible live animals **from protection, surveillance, and further restricted zones** (hereinafter collectively referred to as restricted areas) **may be slaughtered at designated slaughterhouses.**
- **protection and surveillance zone**  **heat treatment**
- **further restricted zones**  **only domestic trade**
- Susceptible animals may be transported from the restricted area for immediate slaughter to a designated slaughterhouse only with a **negative FMD test result within 48 hours** and a favorable clinical **examination** by an **official veterinarian within 24 hours.**

## Pig purchase (10 km zone)

- Government Decree No. 82/2025 on special measures in the livestock sector.
- In the restricted areas specified in the decree, the animals were purchased at the monthly average price set by the Agricultural Economics Institute, coordinated by NFCSO,
- also the related costs (slaughter, processing, storage, etc.) incurred by the companies obliged to cooperate were reimbursed.
- More than **12,994** pigs were slaughtered in these zones.
- The sale of inventories was also carried out within this framework.
- In the further restriction zone specified in the decree, pig farmers were entitled to compensation of up to 40% if the net market value of slaughter pigs did not reach the domestic producer price calculated by the Agricultural Economics Institute (AKI) for the given period.
- **61.000 pigs** pigs were slaughtered in these zones.

## Processing milk from restricted areas

- **Raw milk from susceptible** animals kept in restricted areas could only be transported **to the nearest Hungarian milk processing plant for heat treatment.**
- It was prohibited to transport raw milk from the restricted area to another Member State.



## Game management in restricted areas

- **Hunting was prohibited** within the protection and surveillance zone. Later, the ban was limited to susceptible species.
- However, **diagnostic shooting** and **sampling** were ordered.

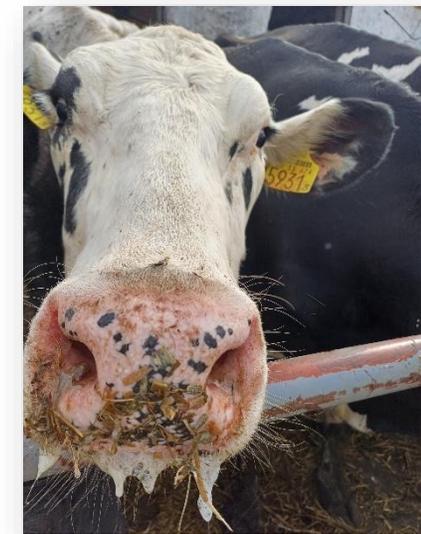
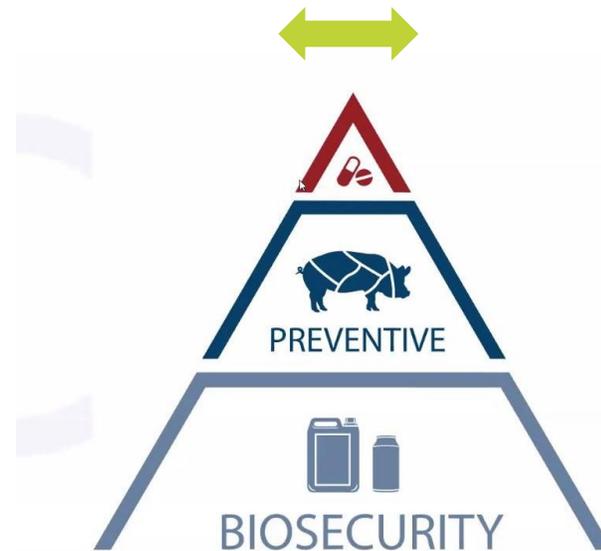
## Experiences

- Quick response after initial shock
- The culling method worked well
- Disposal – problems
- Human resources – constant readiness, assignments, reallocations
- In the event of multiple outbreaks, an Operational Headquarters is required.



# Experiences

- Epidemic control? – If there is no notifiable disease, we become comfortable.
- Epidemic control action plan: 42% of farms keeping susceptible animals proved not to have proper control plan! Crisis plan?!
- Stricter Administration control needed: eg. on visitor log
- Large-small scale farms vs; commercial-non-commercial farms
- There is no democracy in epidemic control. There are no good decisions. There are bad decisions and even worse decisions.



## Future vision

- Preparedness
- Simulation exercises
- Training for stock farmers
- Improvement of epidemic preparedness
- Training of veterinarians
- Strengthening animal health services
- Human resources!
- Prevention is the goal!



Thank you for your attention!

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