

DISEASE IN-FOCUS: LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

What is lumpy skin disease?

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a highly infectious disease of cattle 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.

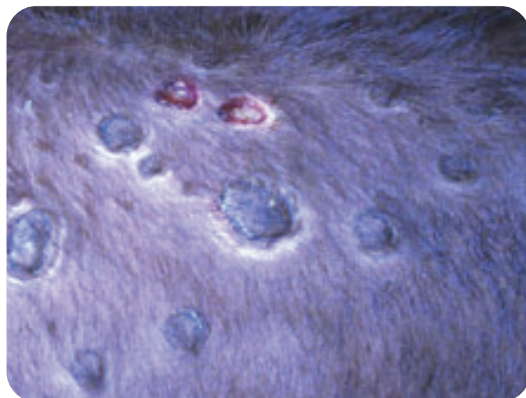
About the disease

The disease has never been recorded in Australia and is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa, parts of the Middle East and Turkey.

Since 2019, outbreaks have been reported in South and East Asia, including Bangladesh, India and China. More recently LSD occurred in a territory of Taiwan, Nepal and Vietnam (possibly from the movement of flies, mosquitos or animals from neighbouring countries).

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?

Susceptible cattle of all ages develop serious clinical disease if infected with LSD, which could result in a high mortality rate and rapid spread of the disease.

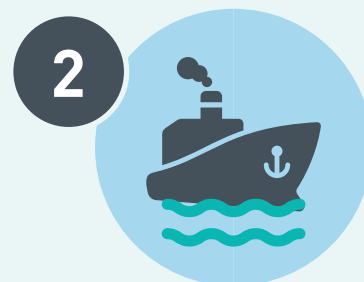
If you notice anything unusual in your cattle you should report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

How is it spread?



LSD may be spread by the movement of infected animals. It is unlikely that the disease will enter Australia through importation of live cattle, or genetic material, as we do not import from LSD endemic countries.



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.



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.