

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND OF
SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES

ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS QUALITY ADMINISTRATION



ORGANIZATION OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES

REPORT ON THE ANIMAL HEALTH SITUATION

IN BELGIUM

1996

WTC III, 5^e floor
Avenue S. Bolivar 30
1000 BRUSSELS
BELGIUM

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ORGANIZATION OF THE
VETERINARY SERVICES

1. Livestock

	NUMBERS	KEEPERS
Cattle	3,158,682	45,798
Sheep	119,053	6,493
Goats	8,331	907
Horses *	6,143	3,117
Pigs	7,153,210	12,787
Poultry	33,209,626	9,213
Bees	8,597 (apiaries)	-

Source : I.N.S. Situation at 1/12/1995

* Farm horses.

2. The veterinary services

2.1. *Legal basis*

The organisation of the Veterinary services is laid down in the Royal Decree of 15 March 1926 defining the structure of the Veterinary service. This decree entrusts veterinary surgeons bearing the title of "Veterinary inspector" with the supervision of the sanitary police of domestic animals.

Formerly a law made in 1882 was the legal foundation of animal disease control and, particularly of sanitary, police regulations. This law was completed by articles 319 to 321 of the Penal code on the obligatory notice of contagious diseases and on the isolation of animals affected with such diseases.

After more than one hundred years, this law replaced in March 1987 by the Animal Health Act which extended the competence of the Veterinary services to all animal species as well as to all diseases, whether contagious or not.

The 1987 Act provides for considerably more means for animal disease control and guarantees a more efficient protection of animal products' users and of final consumers.

The powers of the Services have been substantially increased, both with respect to disease control and to prevention. The competence of the Services has been extended to the products meant for animals and to all products yielded by animals, as well as to the field of animal husbandry terms.

As a result, the Veterinary services have now larger powers to intervene within the framework of supranational regulations and may refer to accurate rules when punishing offences.

2.2. *Powers*

2.2.1. Head office

The inspectorate general is more particularly in charge of international-(delegations with the W.H.O, the F.A.O., the I.E.O., the EEC and the BENELUX) and interministerial relationships as well as of the relationships with other administrations or organizations (I.N.R.V., I.E.V., ...). Moreover, it supervises and co-ordinates the various activities of the Services.

The veterinary services are to conceive and elaborate legal and administrative regulations and to see to the implementation thereof. The main fields of activity are:

- General matters :**
- Organization of the Services
 - Practice of veterinary medicine
 - Relationship with the Veterinary Surgeons Order
 - Epidemiological data registration and processing
- Sanitary police :**
- General rules
 - Fairs, markets and assemblies
 - Authorization of cattle dealers, trade, transport, vehicle disinfection
 - Sanitary inspection of artificial insemination centres and embryo transplantation teams
- Prophylaxis and organized control :**
- General organization of control: Animal disease control federations - epidemiological supervision
 - Epizootic diseases: swine fever, Newcastle disease, foot-and-mouth disease,...
 - Enzootic diseases: brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukaemia, tuberculosis, rabies...

Intra-Community trade - Imports - Exports - Transit :

- General organization
- Living animals:
 - domestic animals
 - fancy animals
 - wild animals
- Products of animal origin:
 - meant for human consumption (meat, meat products, milk, eggs)
 - not meant for human consumption (meal, fat, semen, embryos)
- Hay, manure, straw

Hormones - Residues :

- *Surveillance and goal-oriented investigations*

Animal protection :

- *Implementation of national legislation*
- *National and international transport*
- *Experimental animals*
- *Welfare*

Washington Convention**Various matters :**

- *Vaccines, sera, antigens*
- *Veterinary medicaments, feedstuffs, medicated feed.*

2.2.2. Local services

Each Veterinary inspector is to actively supervise the health situation of domestic animals. Hence, he should verify the implementation of regulations on sanitary police and prophylaxis.

The Veterinary inspector is in charge of the verification and the implementation of the laws on animal health, animal protection and animal welfare, the use of substance having hormonal effects and the law on the practise of veterinary medicine.

As a result, he has the right to search for and to make official entries of infractions of the regulations laid down in pursuance of the various laws.

The veterinary inspector may be assisted by:

- *deputy veterinary inspectors. Those fulfil certain assignments on behalf of the Veterinary inspector. They are not paid any salary but entitled to performance-based fees;*
- *veterinaries for the inspection of animals and products of animal origin in charge of the verifications to be made at frontier inspection offices;*
- *accredited veterinary surgeons appointed in connexion with the sanitary teams, in charge of the specific animal disease control programmes and of the residue examinations provided for in a scheme of the Animal Health and Animal Production Fund.*

2.2.3. Accredited veterinary surgeons

An unlimited number of veterinary surgeons is authorized by the Minister of Agriculture to co-operate to the implementation of sanitary police regulations and to take an active part in the official animal disease control. They are entitled to fees allowances for some of their official performances.

Nearly all veterinary surgeons practising in Belgium have been accredited by the Minister of Agriculture. On 31 December 1996 their number equals 2,358 in the Dutch speaking part of the country and 2,323 in the French speaking part of the country.

2.2.4. Animal Health Teams

These are teams consisting each of one veterinary surgeon and one technical assistant. They are employees of the Central Animal Health Association (A.C.S.A.) And the veterinarians have sanitary police powers.

The teams are under the authority of the Veterinary Services and have to be acquainted with all practical procedures:

- *method of investigation when there is suspicion and confirming procedures;*
- *epidemiological inquiries in herds;*
- *search for animals, vehicles, materials, feed, markets that may have been in contact;*
- *understanding the notions of direct, indirect, primary, secondary, ... contacts;*
- *control measures that may be applied to herds in isolation and surveillance zones;*
- *slaughtering, knackery ... methodes;*
- *cleansing and disinfecting;*
- *judging of animals and products that have been destroyed in virtue of disease control measures and corresponding compensations;*
- *restocking of formerly infected herds.*

2.3. Veterinary services

Currently, the Veterinary Services that are responsible for animal health and animal welfare are part of the structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and of the Small and Medium Sized Businesses where they are included in the Animal Health and Animal Products Quality Administration ("Administration de la Santé et de la Qualité des Produits Animaux"). A veterinary surgeon bearing the title of Adviser general ("Conseiller général") is the head of the Services.

2.3.1. Head office

The Veterinary Services are conducted by a veterinary surgeon bearing the title of Adviser general.

All assignments and powers of the Inspectorate general of the Veterinary Services are spread over three services of the central section.

- A) SERVICE I *Epidemiological supervision and veterinary medicine*
- Competences : *Epidemiological supervision, veterinary medicine, medication, identification, hormones, residues, Animal Disease Control Federations, "ACSA" (Central Animal Health Association), accredited veterinary surgeons, compulsory notice of disease.*
- B) SERVICE II *Animal protection and movements*
- Competences : *Protection and welfare of animals, experiments on animals, the transport of animals, admission of merchants, imports, exports, transit of living animals, products and raw materials of animal origin.*
- C) SERVICE III *Animal health*
- Competences: *Control of diseases of animals (epizootic, enzootic diseases, zoonoses), emergency measures, INRV (National Veterinary Research Institute), diagnosis labs, Animal Health Fund (secretariat and budget).*

2.3.2. Local services

The local services are spread over 14 administrative services.

The Belgian territory is split up into veterinary districts. Veterinary inspectors are civil servants.

2.4. *Staff of the Veterinary services*

Inspectorate general of the Veterinary services

2.4.1. Head office

Address: *WTC III
Avenue S. Bolivar 30
5^{eme} étage
1000 BRUXELLES
Tél.: (02) 208.32.11
Téléfax: (02) 208.36.12*

Head of the Veterinary services: **Dr. L. HALLET - Adviser general**

SERVICE I: In charge: **Dr. L. LENGELE - Veterinary surgeon - Director**

Dr. Ph. DE BLOUDTS - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. Ch. DUBOIS - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. W. NIJSKENS - Veterinary surgeon

SERVICE II: In charge: **Dr. G. EVRARD - Veterinary surgeon - Director**

Dr. A. BERTHOLET - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. A. MALLIET - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. J. MIGNON - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. M. THELISSEN - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. E. VAN TILBURGH - Veterinary surgeon

SERVICE III : In charge: **Dr. H. VAREWYCK - Veterinary surgeon - Director**

Dr. V. DE CONINCK - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. P. DECHAMPS - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. G. LAMSENS - Veterinary surgeon
Dr. D. VAN MEERHAEGHE - Veterinary surgeon

2.4.2. Local veterinary services

	ADDRESSES	TELEPHONE/FAX	INSPECTOR
W.VI	<i>Hoogstraat 9 8000 BRUGGE</i>	<i>Tél.:(050)33.03.69 Fax.:(050)34.60.70</i>	Dr. D. DEVREESE Dr. H. DECRAEMERE
W.VL	<i>Ijzerkaai 27 8500 KORTRIJK</i>	<i>Tél.:(056)25.91.20 Fax.:(056)25.91.76</i>	Dr. J.P. VERMEERSCH
O.VL	<i>Sint-Lievenslaan 33a 9000 GENT</i>	<i>Tél.:(09)235.29.93 Fax.:(09)235.25.23</i>	Dr. G. VAN CAENEGEM Dr. J. HERMAN
ANT.	<i>Van Heybeeckstraat 28 2170 MERKSEM</i>	<i>Tél.:(03)641.80.33 Fax.:(03)645.94.41</i>	Dr. W. D'HOOGHE Dr. D. SCHOCKAERT
LIMB	<i>Helbeekplein 9 - 4de verd. 3500 HASSELT</i>	<i>Tél.:(011)26.39.66 Fax.:(011)23.45.87</i>	Dr. P. SCHANDEVYLL
VL. BRAB	<i>Museumlaan 5B 3080 TERVUREN</i>	<i>Tél.:(02)768.01.11 Fax.:(02)768.01.05</i>	Dr. K. J. DE WIT Dr. L. DEROLEZ
BRAB WAL	<i>Avenue Solvay 5 Complexe Manifagri Zoning Nord 1300 WAVRE</i>	<i>Tél.:(010)22.54.56 Fax.:(010)24.37.60</i>	Dr. W. HIERNAUX
HAIN	<i>Chemin de l'Inquiétude Cité administrative de l'Etat-Bloc 9 7000 MONS</i>	<i>Tél.:(065)34.14.81 Fax.:(065)33.74.90</i>	Dr. V. BERTHOT
HAIN	<i>Avenue du Berceau 2 6530 THUIN</i>	<i>Tél.:(071)59.03.38 Fax.:(071)59.37.35</i>	Dr. P. PETIT
NAM	<i>Rue Edouard Dinot 30 5590 CINEY</i>	<i>Tel.:(083)23.07.60 Fax.:(083)22.04.05</i>	Dr. MULLIER
LIEG	<i>Boulevard de la Sauvenière 73-75 (2^{ème} étage) 4000 LIEGE</i>	<i>Tel.:(04)230.30.10 Fax.:(04)222.00.39</i>	Dr. P. VIATOUR
EST	<i>Avenue des Alliés 13 4960 MALMEDY</i>	<i>Tel.:(080)33.80.35 Fax.:(080)33.82.79</i>	Dr. A. CORMANN

LUX	<i>Avenue Victor Libert 32 6900 MARCHE EN FAMENNE</i>	<i>Tel.:(084)31.16.51 Fax.:(084)32.17.85</i>	Dr. H. ROLAND
LUX	<i>Rue de Courteroie 5A 6800 LIBRAMONT</i>	<i>Tel.:(061)22.50.57 Fax.:(061)22.56.94</i>	Dr. L. LECOMTE

2.4.3. Co-ordinating inspectors

In the local services two Veterinary inspectors are in charge of co-ordination and of the communication with the head office.

For the French speaking part of the country:

Dr. J. DUFÉY
*Rue E. DINOT 30
 5590 CINEY
 Tél.: (083) 23.07.50
 Fax.: (083) 22.04.08*

For the Dutch speaking part of the country:

Dr. A. RASKIN
*Helbeekplein 9
 3500 HASSELT
 Tél.: (011) 26.39.69
 Fax.: (011) 23.45.87*

2.4.4. Tracing the illegal use of substances with hormonal, anti-hormonal, beta-adrenergical, Growth-promoting effects on animals and of substances that are likely to yield residues

In practise the tracing of illegal use of substances with hormonal, anti-hormonal, beta-adrenergical, growth-promoting effects on animals and of substances that are likely to yield residues is set up by:

Inspectors :

Dr. VERMEERSCH	Ijzerkaai, 27	8500 KORTRIJK
Dr VAN CAENEGEM	Sint-Lievenslaan, 33a	9000 GENT
Dr. D'HOOGHE	Van Heybeekstraat 28	2170 MERKSEM
Dr. DEROLEZ	Museumlaan 5B	3080 TERVUREN
Dr. HIERNAUX	Rue Edouard Dinot 30	5590 CINEY
Dr. PETIT	Chemin de l'Inquiétude Cité administrative de l'Etat - Bloc 9	7000 MONS
Dr. LECOMTE	Rue Courterioie 5A	6800 LIBRAMONT
Dr. CORMANN	Av. des Alliés 13	4960 MALMEDY

At the head-office this issue is being dealt with by Service I.

2.65 *Animal Health and Animal Production Fund (Fonds de la Santé et de la Production des Animaux)*

2.5.1. The Fund

The Animal Health and Animal Production Fund was created as an organic Fund by virtue of Article 32, paragraph 2 of the Animal Health Act of 24 March 1987 and has been admitted as such by the Ministry of the Budget. The Fund has no legal personality; it merely is a special article of the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture but it given the advantage of the particular management terms provided for under the Royal Decree of 3 August 1988.

The Fund may be financed by:

- *compulsory contributions to be paid by natural persons of legal persons who produce, convert, convey, process, sell or market animals;*
- *contributions of the European Community to the expenses made by the Fund;*
- *financial means owned by the Fund;*
- *the payment of the levies referred to in the Act of 15 July 1985.*

The financial means of the Fund may be used to prefinance or finance compensations, grants, investment spendings, advances and other benefits with respect to the control of diseases of animals and the improvement of sanitary and health conditions or the quality of animals in the cattle, the pig and the poultry sector.

The financial means are spread over various actions undertaken by the Fund and over specific programmes per species so that everyone may take his own responsibility and to avoid discrimination between farmers keeping cattle, pigs or poultry.

2.5.2. The Board of the Fund

This Board has been set up in pursuance of the Royal Decree of 9 March 1987; it advises on all issues the Minister of Agriculture asks to examine. It has unlimited power to send proposals to the Minister with respect to the enforcement of the Animal Health Act. The allowances granted by the Fund are defined by the Minister, on a proposal made by the Board of the Fund. The rules and regulations of the Board are laid down in the Ministerial Order of 28 September 1987. In this Board the Administration and the farmers' associations are represented equally, each by 8 representatives.

2.5.3. Working groups

The Board of the Fund may consult and invite experts who are no members of the Board and ask for all informations within the scope of its activities. Moreover, the Board is free to create

working groups composed of members and experts for any assignment it may choose.

2.6. Organizations recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture

2.6.1. Federations for the control of diseases of animals (Fédérations de lutte contre les maladies des animaux)

The control of the diseases of animals has been set up in pursuance of the Royal Decree of 7 May 1963. The official character of the Federations was confirmed by the Animal Health Act of 24 March 1987.

The Authorities do indeed encourage the control of diseases of animals:

1. by granting subsidies to the official Federations of associations for the control of the diseases of animals;
2. by paying allowances to accredited veterinary surgeons;
3. by assigning certain advantages to the members of the disease control associations.

To be eligible to these grants the Federations should be officially admitted by the Minister of Agriculture.

Principally only one Federation is admitted per province:

1. the statutes must have been approved beforehand;
2. the Federation should comply with the directives given by the Minister and the Veterinary Inspection Services;
3. it may consist only of livestock farmers' associations that have been officially admitted and jointly organize the control of diseases;
4. the Federation should pay to its members the compensations referred to in the regulations in force according to the diseases of animals for which prophylaxis measures have been laid down;
5. It appoints markers and persons who are in charge of identification.

In general, only one association is admitted per municipality or group of municipalities:

1. the statutes of the associations must have been approved by the Minister of Agriculture;

2. it collects the yearly contributions.

In return the member commits himself to completely restore the health situation on his premises if an infectious disease should occur.

The Act of 24 March 1987 allows the identification and registration of all animals kept for husbandry purposes so as to make it possible to follow the animals through their successive transfers. The SANITEL system has been set up within this framework (see 3.9.).

2.6.2. Research centres

The Royal Decree of 30 December 1960 on brucellosis control provides in article 10 for the creation of provincial research centres; the building and equipment of these centres have been taken care of by the Federations for the control of diseases of animals that have the statute of non-profit associations. They have been equipped initially in order to analyse milk and blood samples with the aim of tracing brucellosis and diagnosing parasitic diseases.

The laboratory investigations are carried out on the responsibility of one or several veterinary surgeons who are paid by the provincial Federation that runs the lab. Financial means consist of State subsidies, contributions paid by the members-livestock farmers and the payment of invoices of certain services.

The local veterinary inspector supervises the administration and technical aspects while the I.N.R.V. (National Veterinary Research Institute) supervises and co-ordinates the execution of diagnostic tests.

In time the research centres have widened the scope of their activities and have become diagnostic laboratories: some provincial laboratories have become very experienced in certain specializations, such as poultry pathology, pig diseases or mastitis diagnosis. In 1970 a Ministerial Order entrusted them, together with the I.N.R.V., with the official diagnosis of pullorum disease in poultry farms.

Also, in 1978 has been created in these same centres a department that was entrusted with the organisation of health care for pigs.

In addition to these official tasks, most of the provincial laboratories have the equipment required to carry out further specialized bacteriological, serological and biochemical examinations so that they may satisfy the specific needs of the farms in their province.

Addresses of the "Federations de lutte contre les maladies des animaux" and of their research centres.

1.	Province of West-Vlaanderen Industrielaan 15	8820 TORHOUT	(050)21.43.51
2.	Province of Oost-Vlaanderen Drongenstationsstraat 71	9031 DRONGEN	(09)226.10.87
3.	Province of Antwerp Hagenbroeksesteenweg 167	2500 LIER	(03)480.74.75 (03)480.76.77
4.	Province of Limburg Wetsersstraat 14	3570 ALKEN	(011)31.26.54
5.	Province of Vlaams-Brabant Kruisstraat 24*	3061 BERTEM	(02)767.68.73
6.	Province of Brabant Wallon Rue des Jambes, 19*	1420 BRAINE L'ALLEUD	(02)384.25.86
7.	Province of Hainaut Drève du Prophète 2	7000 MONS	(065)31.47.25
8.	Province of Namur Chaussée de Marche 604	5101 ERPENT	(081)30.01.26
9.	Province of Liège a) Av. A. Deponthière 40 b) Krinkel 46*	4431 ANS 4761 ROCHERATH	(041)63.54.49 (080)64.20.73
10.	Province of Luxemburg Rue du Carmel 2	6900 MARLOIE	(084)31.21.29

*There is a Federation but no research centre

2.6.3. Central Animal Health Association (Association Centrale de Santé Animale (A.C.S.A.))

This is a non profit association entrusted with the centralized enforcement of certain control measures within the framework of schemes defined by the Fund and more particularly with:

- a) organizing the identification of registration of animals;*
- b) taking an active part in the enforcement of measures aiming at the prevention, the research and the control of diseases of animals by setting up an epidemiological supervision network.*

For this purpose, it should engage animal health teams composed of an accredited veterinary surgeon and one or more technical assistants, as well as all other employees that are required to fulfil the missions assigned by the Minister.

The measures and expenses related to the activities of the animal health teams and the other employees are financed with subsidies and advances allowed to the A.C.S.A. by the Fund.

It closely co-operates with the "Fédérations de lutte contre les maladies animales" (Federations for the control of diseases of animals).

The Board of Directors is evenly composed of representatives of the Administration, of the Board of the fund and of the Federations.

It may rely on a firm legal basis in its efforts to achieve its goals.

2.7. *Institutions and services working in co-operation with the Veterinary services*

2.7.1. National Veterinary Research Institute (I.N.R.V. - Institut National de Recherches Vétérinaires)

Address : Groeselenberg 99
1180 BRUXELLES
Tel.: (02) 375.44.55
Fax.: (02) 375.09.79

The I.N.R.V. is a scientific institution that has to co-operate with the Veterinary Services as well as with the accredited veterinary surgeons in the field of the diagnosis and prophylaxis of diseases of domestic animals. Moreover, it has to carry out research with the aim of improving the means that are available to control epizootic diseases and to develop new methods for diagnosis, prophylaxis and therapy.

Since 1957, it has the statute of a government institution coming under the Directorate General for Research and Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and of the Small and Medium Sized Businesses.

At this moment, the I.N.R.V. is composed of a directorate general and 14 scientific services that are split up into departments and sections. Dr. PEETERS, Director a.i., is entrusted with the general management of the Institute.

Hereunder is given the list of the departments with the names of their respective scientists:

- Virology Department:

Dr. E. VANOPDENBOSCH, head of the department.
Dr. J. DEBECQ, research leader
Dr. K. DE CLERCQ, research leader
Dr. K. KOENEN, senior assistant
Dr. Ir. Carine LETELLIER, senior assistant
Ir. A. CAIJ, assistant
Ir. H. VANDERHALLEN, assistant
Dr. W. VANGRYSPERE, assistant
Dr. J. LEFEBVRE, veterinary surgeon

- Large domestic animals Pathology Department:

Dr. G. WELLEMANS, head of the department a.i.
Dr. P. POHL, head of the section
Dr. P. LINTERMANS, research leader-"agrégé"

Dr. H. IMBERECHTS, assistant
 Dr. P. KERKHOF, assistant
 Dr. J. GODFROID, assistant
 Ir. P. WILLEMS, assistant
 Lic. A. BERTELS, attachée
 Lic. G. LION, attaché
 Dr. K. KNAPEN, veterinary surgeon
 Dr. F. BOELAERT, veterinary surgeon
 Lic. M. DE FILETTE, attachée
 Lic. I. CLEENWERCK, attachée

- Small Stock Pathology and Parasitology Department:

Dr. J. PEETERS, head of department
 Dr. G. MEULEMANS, head of the section
 Dr. Ir. C. LETELLIER, senior assistant
 Dr. T. VAN DEN BERG, senior assistant
 Dr. D. DE GRAAF, assistant
 Dr. F. SALOMON, assistant
 Dr. Ph. ISABEL VILLACORTA, assistant
 Dr. TSANG TSEY CHOW, assistant
 Dr. D. VANDEKERCHOVE, assistant
 Ir. H. VANDERHALLEN, assistant

- Biological Control Department:

Dr. G. WELLEMANS, head of the department
 Lic. G. CHARLIER, head of the section
 Dr. M. DESMECHT, research leader

Moreover, the Royal Decree of 10 January 1995 created a centre for the co-ordination of veterinary diagnosis (C.C.D.V. - Centre de coordination du diagnostic vétérinaire) entrusted with the co-ordination and supervision of the activities of the veterinary diagnosis laboratories and with the achievement of all tasks the Minister should assign to it.

In addition to its research work each service undertakes diagnosing in its own field as well as the production and inspection of biological products.

2.7.2. Veterinary Expertise Institute (Institut d'Expertise Vétérinaire)

Address : rue de la Loi 56
 1000 BRUXELLES
 Tel.: (02) 287.02.11

The former "Meat Trade Inspection" (*Inspection du commerce des viandes*) came under the Ministry for Public Health and the Family as a subdivision of the Directorate General of Public Health.

Now, inspection is taken care of by the *Institute d'Expertise Vétérinaire* (Veterinary Expertise Institute), under the Ministry for Public Health, Environment and Social Integration, in pursuance of the Act on the Use of substances with hormonal or anti-hormonal effects on animals of 15 July 1985. It is a class A government institution.

It is in charge of organizing and carrying out veterinary expertises in slaughterhouses, laboratory examinations and health inspections provided for in the Acts of 5 September 1952 and 15 April 1965. It is also empowered to research and establish infractions of the Act on the Use of substances with hormonal or anti-hormonal effects on animals of 15 July 1985.

2.8. *Sanitel*

2.8.1. Sanitel - B

Sanitel - B is an elaborate computer system of the Ministry of Agriculture set up for the purpose of automatic management of the permanent inventory of cattle population so as to enable a more efficient follow-up of the health situation of the animals.

A bovine animal that is marketed may be followed permanently throughout the country, owing to its identification; its state of health is known at any moment, owing to the information put into the data base of the competent Federation.

The general identification of the cattle population was a preliminary condition for the setting up of the system as well as for any disease control procedures.

To this aim, the Agricultural Department worked out new regulations including the compulsory general identification of cattle:

This regulation:

- *imposes compulsory identification of all bovine animals in the country;*
- *entrusts the Disease Control Federations with the execution of this identification.*

All bovine animals must be completely identified by:

- a) *attaching 2 ear tags:*
 - * *a working tag made of salmon-coloured plastic attached to the left ear;*
 - * *an official brass tag attached to the right ear.*
- b) *entering the animal in the farm inventory;*
- c) *drawing up a separate accompanying document bearing the name of the keeper.*

Young animals are identified as soon as possible after birth.

- *before any movement*
- *before the age of 30 days*

Cattle keepers who wish to do so, may attach the working tag themselves; yet only the identifying agent is empowered to attach the official tag.

Attached to the accompanying document there is a health strip with an adhesive label mentioning the status of the animal with respect to several diseases (brucellosis, leukaemia, tuberculosis,...).

All these tasks are carried out with computer aid:

- * *distribution of plastic ear tags;*
- * *delivery of identification documents made out in te keeper's name, with health label*

- * *packing and forwarding*
- * *centralized receipt of the inventory change cards and optic reading of those cards, appropriate computer updating and filing of the cards;*

The organization is centralized at the ACSA (Central Animal Health Association) and identification is put into practise in a decentralized way by the Federations for the control of diseases of animals.

2.8.2. Sanitel V. (= Sanitel for pigs)

Sanitel-V is somewhat different from Sanitel-B. Just like the bovine animals, each pig is separately identified but the use of separate identification documents appeared to be practically impossible.

All piglets are identified at the latest at the time of weaning; this identification consists of a stock tag.

All fat pigs are marked before leaving the farm; a tattoo hammer is used to that end.

All pigs other than fat pigs that are conveyed from an assembly area or from another stock that the stock of origin are moreover identified by means of an official ear tag of the assembly area or the stock.

The aim of Sanitel-V is to be able to know the origin and provenance of the pigs at any time and to follow the movements of all pigs.

At present the following data are registered:

*Pig stocks;
Persons in charge;
Farm veterinary surgeons;
Conveyors and means of transport;
Slaughterhouses.*

The registration of assembly areas within the admitted legal framework has been planned.

Means of identification

- * *The salmon-coloured plastic ear tags bear the characters BE followed by the abbreviated alphanumerical code of the stock consisting of 4 characters.*
- * *The tattoo hammer bearing the stock code which is used for marking fat pigs on both their flanks 5 days before their departure.*
- * *The export ear tags used for identifying breeding pigs.*

Stock supervision

The reports of calls made by the farm veterinary surgeon include information on the presence of pigs, on the health situation, on identification and on the number of ear tags on hand.

Supervision on compulsory Aujeszky disease vaccinations is carried out by means of a report on Aujeszky vaccinations in which the farm veterinary surgeon makes entries, 3 times a year, on the vaccination data, the number of animals that have been vaccinated and the vaccine that was used to that end.

Splitting up the tasks linked to Sanitel-V

The tasks linked to Sanitel-V are split up between the Federations, the Veterinary inspectors and the Head office.

The Federations are in charge of the management of stocks and responsible persons and of the equipment. The Federation also sees to the distribution, the input into Sanitel-V and the filing of all MOR/OCR documents.

The management of conveyors and their vehicles as well as of assembly areas has been allotted to the Head office.

The Inspection is in charge of the management of the agreements made between the responsible person and the farm veterinary surgeon, the approval or refusal of certificates of health, the registration of all data and the changes concerning the stock or the responsible person.

Following the movements of pigs

All transport (whether or not inherent to the farm) should be covered by a transport document; this document has replaced the former sanitary note-book for trades and the disinfection logbook.

The transport document contains all the data on the transporter, the date, the means of transport, the number and the category of the pigs, their provenance and destination, cleansing and disinfection.

At the moment the records are hand-written but use of a portable computer for automatic registration of loadings and unloadings has been planned. The user will then be able to transmit the data put into the portable computer every day by means of a modem connected to the telephone network.

Antecedents

In addition to the identification and registration data, Sanitel-V will also update the health antecedents of the stocks as well as the quality (post-mortem results, blood tests,

compulsory vaccinations, a.s.o., ... or residues).

2.9. *Intra-Community trade*

Rules for the intra-Community trade of animals and animal products have been laid down in the Royal Decree of 31 december 1992 on veterinary and zootechnic inspections.

2.9.1 Nature of inspections

a) Inspection at the origin

The Service must check the conformity of the animals, of the animal products, of farms, centres, a.s.o. ..., to the requirements laid down in European regulations, before handing out a health certificate.

b) Inspection at the destination

At the place of destination of the animals or the products, the Service is empowered to carry out non-discriminatory random veterinary inspections.

It may also carry out any checks as it thinks fit during the transport when an infraction is being presumed.

Before proceeding to any marketing, the consignees of the animals or the products of animal origin are:

- * *to check the identification;*
- * *and the concordance of certificates;*
- * *to inform the Service of any abnormality;*
- * *if need be, to isolate the animals involved.*

2.9.2. particular rules

When the Service detects the presence of a disease in an animal or find out that the animal products come from an area afflicted by an epizootic disease, it ordains that the animal must be kept in quarantine or slaughtered and that the slaughtered body or the products must be destroyed.

If the animals or the products are not in agreement with the European regulations or the national rules (for fields that have not yet been harmonized), the shipper may either slaughter the animals and destroy the products or return them if the Member State from which they were shipped gives its consent and if the Member States on the territory of which the transport takes place, are informed.

When there is a problem with the documents, the owner is allowed a time for regularization before he has to send the goods back.

When residues are found, the animals stay under supervision until there is concordance with the rules.

2.9.3. Litigation

When a case is in litigation, an expertise is carried out by an expert of the EU Commission whose report will be binding.

2.9.4. Registration-Accreditation

All persons involved in trade activities should:

- * be accredited by the Minister;*
- * keep a register that makes mention of the origin and the destination of the traded animals and products; this register should be kept for 3 years.*

2.10. Imports - Exports - Transit of animals and animal products

Henceforth the concordance with European regulations of imports from third countries is checked when the goods reach an external frontier of the E.E.C. at a frontier inspection office.

Once they have been certified, the animals or products brought to the EEC market are subject to the intra-Community trade rules.

Rules for the import, export and transit of living animals and animal products involving the Veterinary Service have been laid down in the Royal decree of 31 december 1992 on the organization of veterinary inspections of animals and certain products of animal origin that are imported from third countries.

2.10.1 General provisions

The import of animals and animal products is subject to the delivery beforehand of a licence by the Service:

2.10.2. How inspections are organized

In one of the frontier inspection offices the Service carries out inspections of the documents and checks the identity of any batch of animals or animal products offered for import, independently of the place of destination of the animals and products; the aim of this inspection is to check:

- * their origin;*
- * their further destination;*

- * *the concordance between the data mentioned on the certificates or documents and the guarantees required according to European regulations.*

In the field that have not yet been harmonized, national regulations are still in force.

If the import is allowed:

- * *productive and breeding animals remain under the supervision of the Service as long as is necessary to carry out the health examinations for purchases and the identification procedure before they may be brought into intra-Community trade;*
- * *fat animals are subject to the European regulation on slaughtering in the slaughterhouse of destination.*

If the import is refused:

The Service ordains:

- * *the isolation of the animals;*
- * *the driving out of the animals beyond the frontiers of the Community if this is not contrary to sanitary police, welfare or health requirements;*
- * *the information of the other frontier inspection offices of the infraction that was found;*
- * *the slaughtering of the animals or the destruction of the products if sending them back appears to be impossible.*

Transit:

A transit licence may be delivered after previous physical and documentary inspections on condition that the third country of destination guarantees that the animals or products will not be brought back into the Community.

2.10.3. Saving clause

If a disease referred to in Directive 82/894/EEC should appear or spread on the territory of a third country, the Service will with all practicable speed and at its own initiative or consequently to a decision of the Commission, take one of the following measures according to how serious the situation may be:

- * *suspend imports from the whole or part of the territory of the country involved;*
- * *define specific conditions with respect to animals coming from the whole or part of the territory of the country involved.*

HEALTH SITUATION IN 1996

a) "A" list diseases in Belgium

1. PREVALENCE OF "A" LIST DISEASES IN BELGIUM

The year in which the most recent outbreak of each diseases was found in Belgium is:

<i>Foot-and-mouth disease</i>	1976
<i>Vesicular disease of pigs</i>	1993
<i>Vesicular stomatitis</i>	-
<i>Rinderpest</i>	1920
<i>Pest in small ruminants</i>	-
<i>Bovine contagious pleuropneumonia</i>	1897
<i>Contagious lumpy skin disease</i>	-
<i>Rift valley fever</i>	-
<i>Bluetongue in sheep</i>	-
<i>Sheep pox and goat pox</i>	-
<i>African horse sickness</i>	-
<i>African swine fever</i>	1985
<i>Swine fever</i>	1994
<i>Teschen disease</i>	-
<i>Fowl pest</i>	-
<i>Newcastle disease</i>	1996

2. NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Vaccination of poultry is mandatory since 1993 for farms or units of more than 100 birds.

Since October of the same year, Belgium is free of Newcastle disease in the professional sector.

In 1996, 7 outbreaks have been recorded in the following provinces: Luxemburg, Liège, Antwerpen, Vlaams Brabant, all of them in the hobby sector.

The following specific measures have been taken on the afflicted hobby farms:

- *slaughtering and destruction of living fowls;*
- *destruction of the bodies of slaughtered animals;*
- *sixty days of isolation after the symptoms have disappeared in the case of an outbreak in a pigeonhouse;*
- *delimitation of a protection zone of 500 meters around the outbreaks and vaccination within and around this perimeter with prohibition on movements;*
- *checking the vaccination;*
- *epidemiological investigation, inspection of traders involved in the spread of the virus;*
- *measures with respect to cleansing and disinfection.*

The last outbreak goes back to 7 November 1996.

a) "B"-list diseases in Belgium

1. BRUCELLOSIS OF CATTLE

In 1988 a reinforced control scheme for brucellosis of cattle was set up in Belgium. The infection rate fell from 1.13 % in 1987 to 0.08 % on 31.12.1992 and to 0.01 % on 31.12.1993.

A similar result has been recorded with respect to the incidence: from more than 500 reported cases in 1987 the incidence fell to 159 cases in 1992, to 78 in 1993, 36 in 1994, 56 in 1995 and 27 in 1996.

Since 1993 stamping-out is mandatory in developing outbreaks.

The overall situation and the development of the situation may be seen in the following scheme:

PREVALENCE					
	Number	%age 31.12.1995	Number	%age 31.12.1996	INCID.
<i>West-Flanders</i>	5	0.05	5	0.05	9
<i>East-Flanders</i>	3	0.02	2	0.01	11
<i>Antwerp</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Limburg</i>	2	0.04	1	0	0
<i>Brabant flamand</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brabant wallon</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Hainaut</i>	1	0.01	0	0	2
<i>Namur</i>	1	0.03	0	0	0
<i>Liège</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Luxemburg</i>	2	0.04	1	0.02	5
KINGDOM	14	0.02	9	0.01	27

2. ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUCOSIS

The infection rate of the Kingdom is very low. The accelerated research and eradication scheme for enzootic bovine leucosis which was approved by E.E.G. and started in 1989, has been concluded.

1 outbreaks have been found in 1996.

3. RABIES

Three oral vaccination campaigns for foxes have been carried out in 1996 all over the area south of the "Sillon Sambre et Meuse": 2 air distribution campaigns in March and November, 1 vaccination of fox cubs in holes at the end of May.

Vaccination

149.855 doses in March;

17.340 vaccinations of fox cubs for 1.810 holes in May;

154.540 doses in November.

Cases

Total number of cases confirmed in the course of 1996:

*44 of which: 28 foxes
7 bovine animals
1 sheep
3 horses
1 weasel
1 badger
1 dog
2 cats*

In all, twenty two municipalities have been infected. Those municipalities were situated in the provinces of Luxemburg, Namur and Liège.

4. BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Qualification has been suspended for less than 0.02 % of the herds. The situation is mastered by means of tuberculation at the purchase of breeding or productive animals and post-mortem examinations in the slaughterhouses.

At the end of 1995 a new increase in the number of cases was observed in the province of Liège.

5. VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN RABBITS (R.H.D.)

Up to now have been recorded 301 outbreaks of R.H.D. since the disease was first detected in Belgium in June 1990: 10 cases were found in 1996.

The number of outbreaks per province is given hereunder (1990-1996):

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF OUTBREAKS
ANTWERP	12
BRABANT	44
LIMBURG	14
WEST-FLANDERS	32
EAST-FLANDERS	56
HAINAUT	61
LIEGE	61
LUXEMBURG	10
NAMUR	10
	301

According to the law the assembly of rabbits on faires, exhibitions and contests is allowed if the rabbits have been vaccinated at least 7 days and no more than 6 months before the assembly, by means of a vaccine that has been approved by the Service. These animals must have an ear tattoo.

Survey of contagious diseases of animals found in Belgium in the last twenty years

	Foot. mou. dis.	Ves. Dis. pig	Afric. swine fever	Swine fever	Newcas. disease	Black-leg	Anthrax	Aujeszky disease	Rabies	Bruc. of cattle	Bov. Leu.	Tri vibr
1996	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	8	44	27	1	-
1995	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	1	213	56	4	-
1994	-	-	-	48	1	-	-	10	61	38	3	-
1993	-	1	-	7	41	-	-	14	2	78	10	-
1992	-	1	-	-	26	-	-	36	34	160	17	-
1991	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	29	284	152	-
1990	-	-	-	113	-	-	-	-	144	322	250	-
1989	-	-	-	8	1	1	-	6	842	494	157	2
1988	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	514	473	16	2
1987	-	-	-	83	2	1	-	-	242	514	6	3
1986	-	-	-	80	-	-	-	-	342	497	7	17
1985	-	-	10	67	-	3	-	-	450	437	10	-
1984	-	-	-	9	-	-	3	-	504	408	235	-
1983	-	-	-	26	1	3	-	-	499	291	19	-
1982	-	-	-	102	-	2	1	-	671	283	38	-
1982	-	-	-	36	-	1	2	-	172	397	16	-
1981	-	-	-	7	6	1	-	-	47	479	15	-
1979	-	6	-	-	1	3	-	-	25	-	-	-
1978	-	-	-	-	6	24	2	-	61	-	-	-
1977	-	-	-	1	3	16	1	-	67	-	-	-

	Cont. horse metr.	MRS prrs	Infect. Laryngotracheitis	Fowl chol.	Psitt. ornit.	Myxomatosis	Tularémia	RHD in rabbits	Acariosis	Varr
1996	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	10	1	-
1995	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
1994	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	14	3	-
1993	-	-	9	-	-	2	-	60	-	-
1992	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	77	-	**
1991	-	81	1	-	1	2	-	84	-	3400*
1990	1	-	2	-	-	4	-	50	1	20
1989	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	37
1989	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	42
1988	5	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	1	641
1987	3	-	-	4	1	9	-	-	10	33
1986	17	-	4	3	-	11	-	-	5	13
1985	-	-	7	3	-	1	-	-	-	8
1984	-	-	7	1	-	19	-	-	4	-
1983	-	-	2	1	-	8	-	-	3	-
1982	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	14	-
1981	-	-	5	3	-	-	1	-	10	-
1980	-	-	2	-	-	11	-	-	11	-
1979	-	-	8	-	-	11	-	-	75	-
1978	-	-	2	1	-	22	-	-	22	-
1977	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Number of apiaries involved in varroasis control