

Lumpy Skin Disease Cattle

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is a viral disease in cattle that primarily manifests itself as round nodules on the skin, often accompanied by fever and decreased well-being.

Cattle - clinical signs may include

- Fever exceeding 41 °C for up to one week
- Small, round skin nodules (2–5 cm), particularly on the head, neck, and back
- Nodules may become painful, rupture, and form scars
- Excessive salivation, nasal discharge, and tearing
- Lameness due to swollen limbs and general discomfort
- Enlarged lymph nodes and possible edema (fluid accumulation) in the udder and chest
- Nodules may also appear on mucous membranes of the nose, mouth, respiratory tract, and reproductive organs

Lumpy Skin Disease has been identified in Italy and France. Read here what you should pay attention to.

Incubation period – When are animals infectious?

Typically, clinical signs of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle appear 4 to 14 days after infection.

However, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) states that the incubation period can be up to 28 days. In experimental settings, some cattle have shown symptoms as early as 6–9 days post-infection.

This means an animal can be infected and potentially spread the virus without showing clear signs for several weeks, making early detection and swift action critically important.

Transmission Routes – How Does the Disease Spread?

LSD is primarily transmitted via insects and ticks that act as mechanical vectors. The virus does not replicate in the insect. Still, it is physically carried from one animal to another, typically through biting flies, mosquitoes, or ticks that have fed on an infected animal.

- LSD virus has been detected in flies, ticks, and mosquitoes after contact with infected cattle
- Experimental studies confirm that biting flies and ticks can effectively transmit the disease

Prevention

- Avoid transporting unvaccinated cattle, especially across borders or into new regions
- Pay close attention when importing animals or using shared grazing areas
- Maintain strict hygiene routines and ensure regular cleaning
- Disinfect equipment and housing areas
- Implement pest and vector control measures to limit insect exposure
- Promptly report any suspected cases to the authorities to enable early containment and prevent further spread

