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Authors: Leif Jarle Asheim, Petter Hopp, Gry M. Grøneng, Ola Nafstad, Agnar Hegrenes, Synnøve Vatn



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A financial cost-benefit analysis of eradicating virulent footrot

Leif Jarle Asheim^{a,*}, Petter Hopp^b, Gry M. Grøneng^{b,1}, Ola Nafstad^c, Agnar Hegrenes^a,
Synnøve Vatn^c

^a Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research, P.O. Box 115, NO-1431 ÅS, Norway

^b Norwegian Veterinary Institute, P.O. Box 750 Sentrum, NO-0106 OSLO, Norway

^c Animalia, Norwegian Meat and Poultry Research Centre, P.O. Box 396 Økern, NO-0513
OSLO, Norway

* Corresponding author. E-mail address: Leif-Jarle.Asheim@nibio.no (Leif Jarle Asheim)

¹ Present address: Norwegian Institute of Public Health, P. O. Box 4404, Nydalen, NO-0403
OSLO, Norway

Abstract

In 2008, virulent footrot was detected in sheep in south-west Norway. Footrot is caused by *Dichelobacter nodosus*, and the outbreak was linked to live sheep imported from Denmark in 2005. A large-scale program for eradicating the disease was implemented as a joint industry and governmental driven eradication project in the years 2008-2014, and continued with surveillance and control measures by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority from 2015. The cost of the eradication program including surveillance and control measures until 2032 was assumed to reach approximately € 10.8 million (NOK 90 million). A financial cost-benefit analysis, comparing costs in the eradication program with costs in two simulated scenarios, was carried out. In the scenarios, designated ModerateSpread (baseline) and SlowSpread, it was assumed that the sheep farmers would undertake some voluntary measures on their own that would slow the spread of the disease. The program obtained a positive NPV after

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