



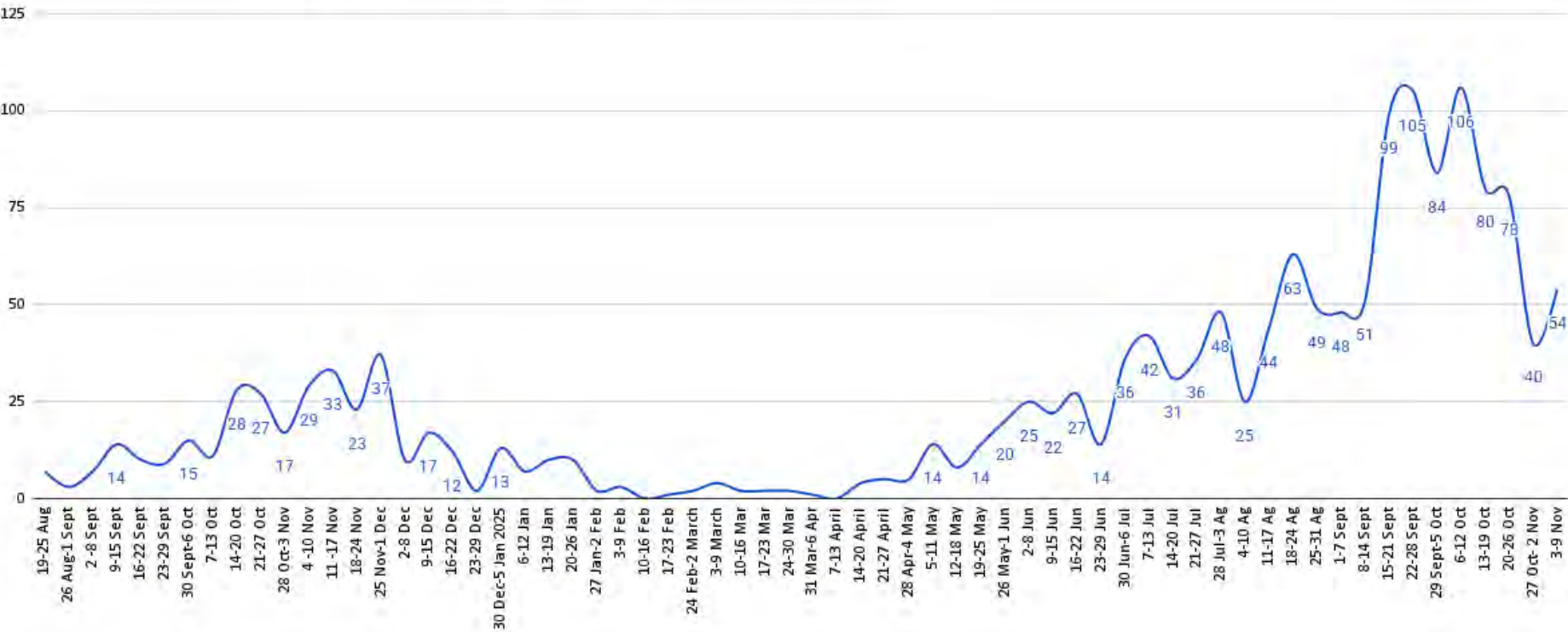
# **Sheep pox and goat pox in Greece**

Ministry of Rural Development and Food  
Directorate General of Veterinary Services  
Animal Health Directorate

**SCOPAFF meeting 21/11/2025**

# Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox August 2024-November 2025 (09.11.2025)

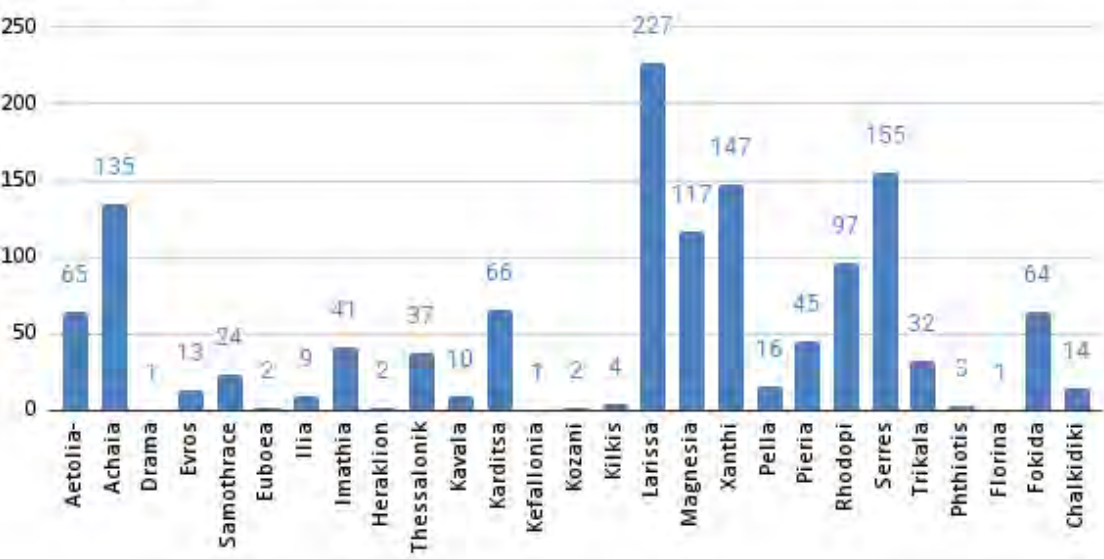
The evolution of sheep and goat pox from August 2024 to November 9, 2025.



Progressive reduction of outbreaks following the peak of October 2025

# Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox: 01.01.2025 to 09.11.2025

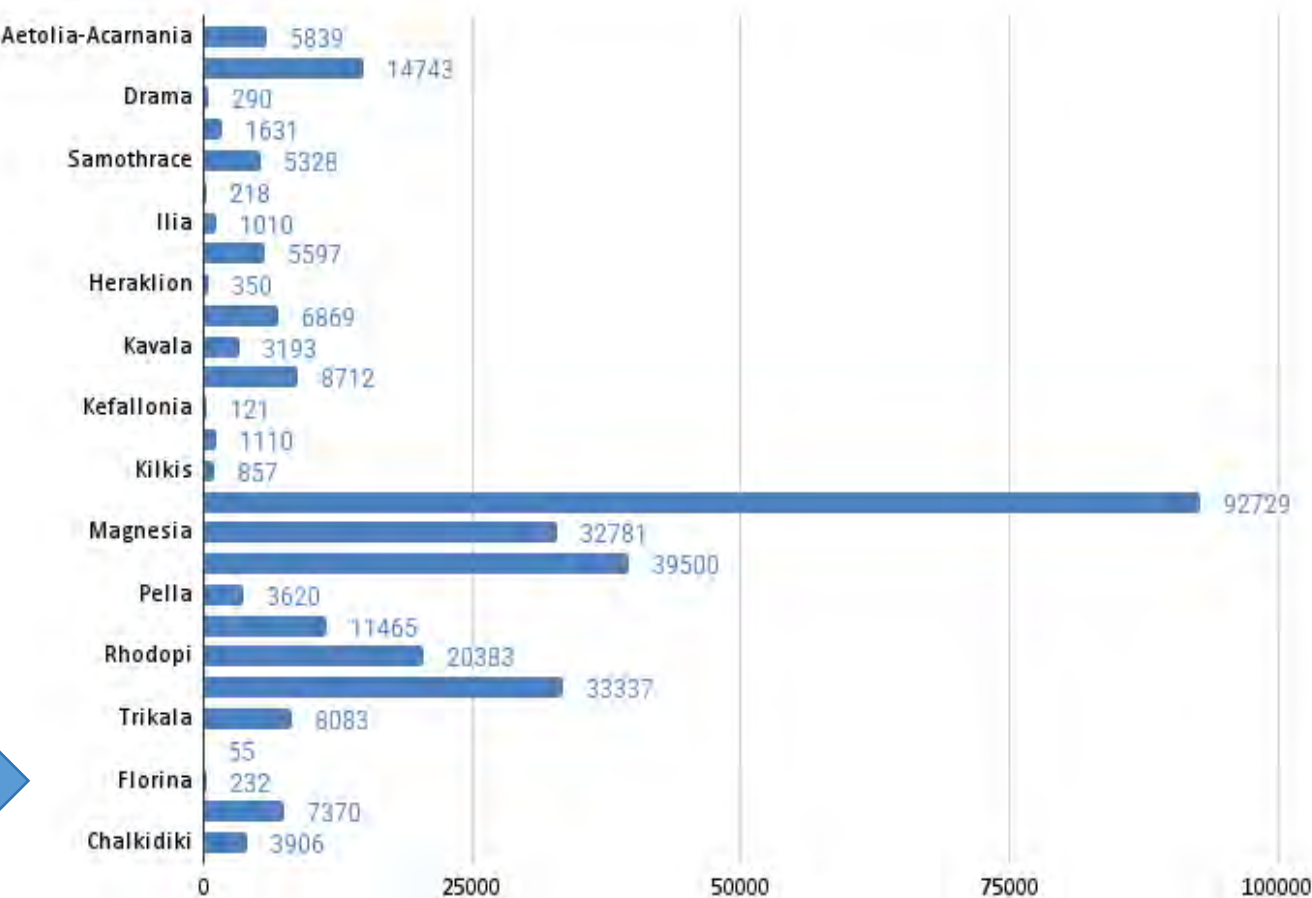
Sheep and goat pox per Regional Unit from 01.01.25 to 09.11.25  
(total 1330)



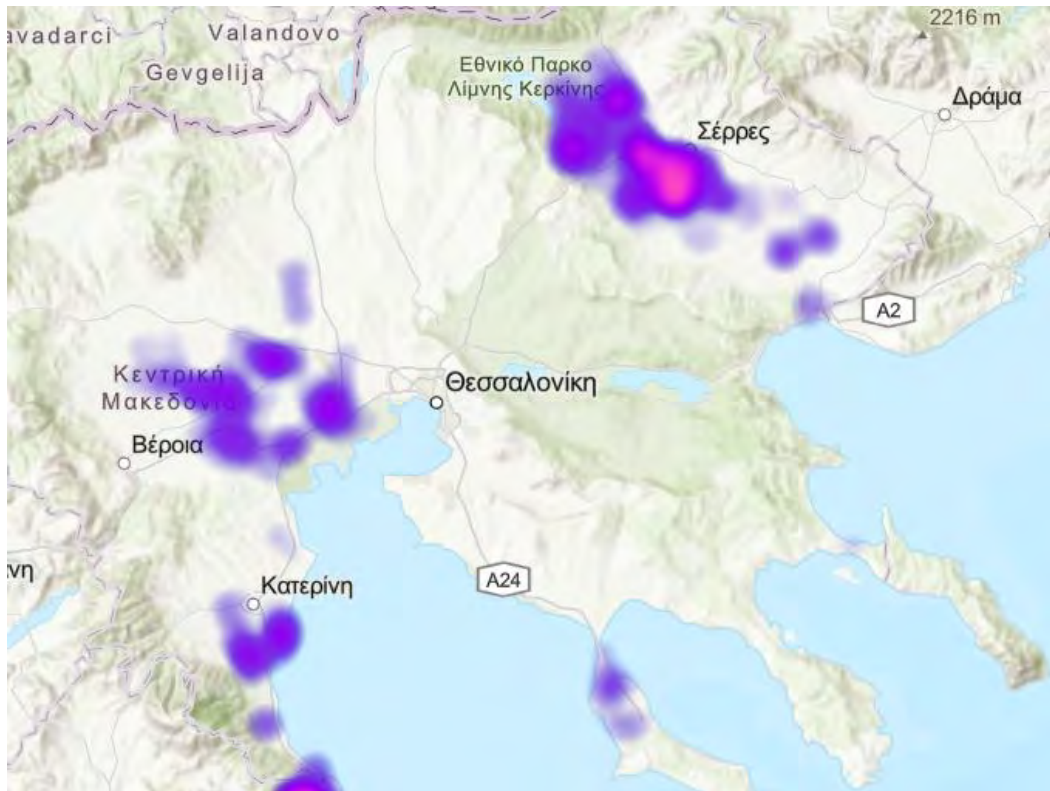
**TOTAL NUMBER OF  
OUTBREAKS: 1330**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CULLED  
ANIMALS in 2025 : 309.329**

Number of culled sheep and goats from 01.01.25 to 09.11.25  
Total: 309,329

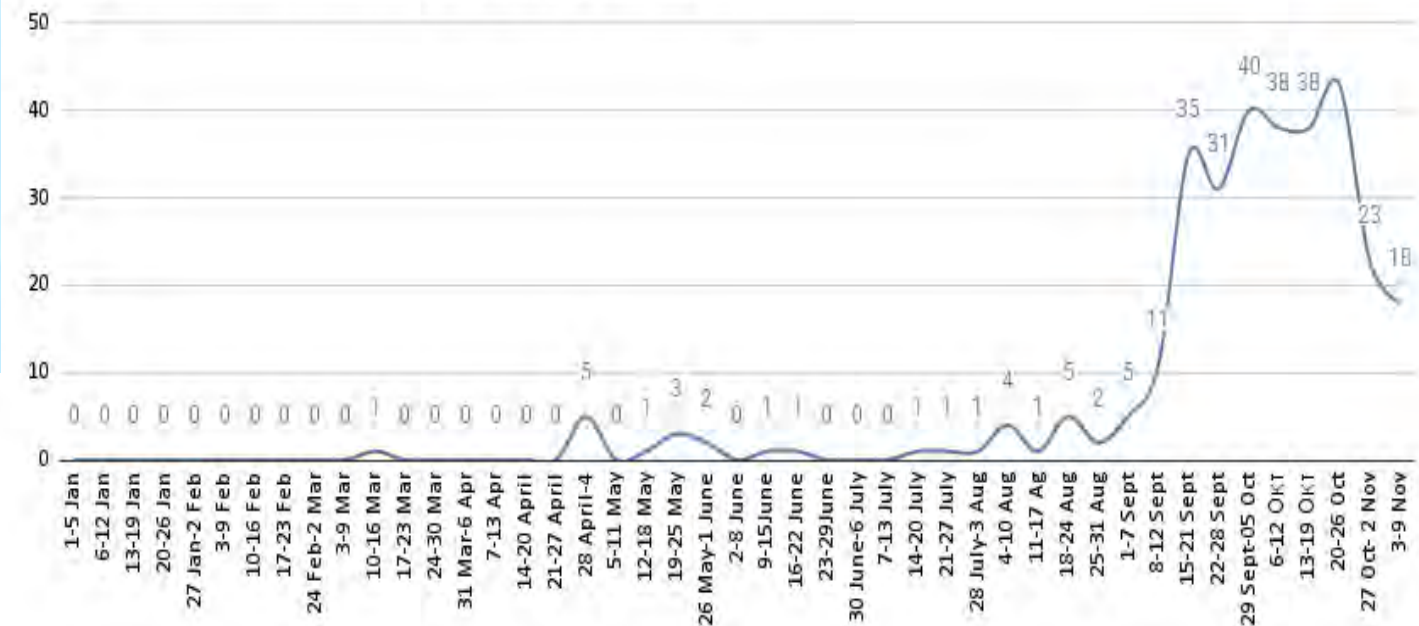


# Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox in Central Macedonia



- The Region of Central Macedonia reports the highest number of outbreaks. Over the past 30 days, 185 outbreaks have been confirmed.

Central Macedonia Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox

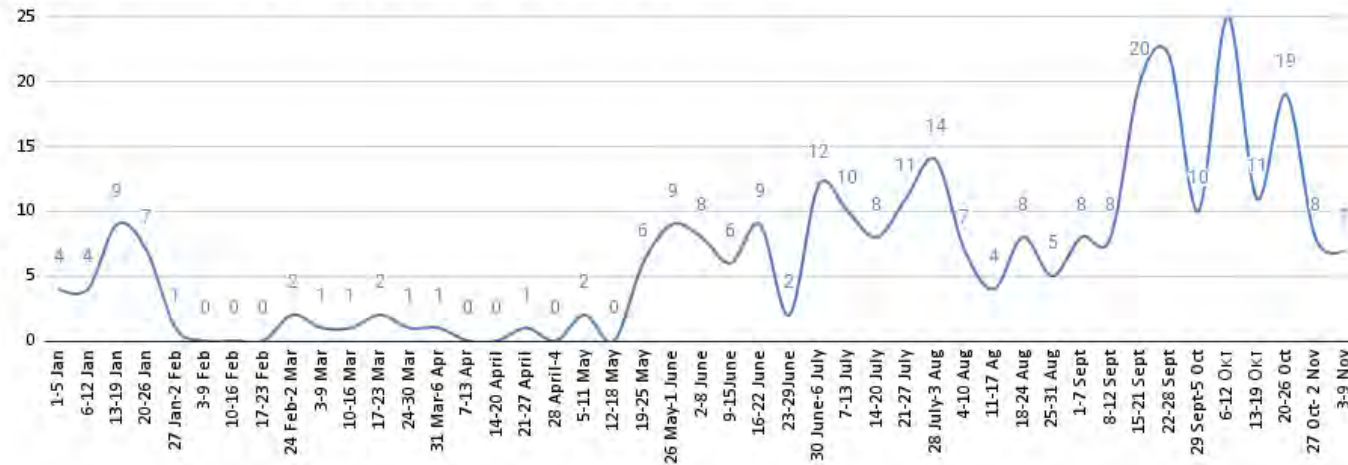


*i-GeoVET geospatial platform -  
Heat map.*



# Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox in Eastern Macedonia - Thrace and Thessaly Region

Eastern Macedonia & Thrace, Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox



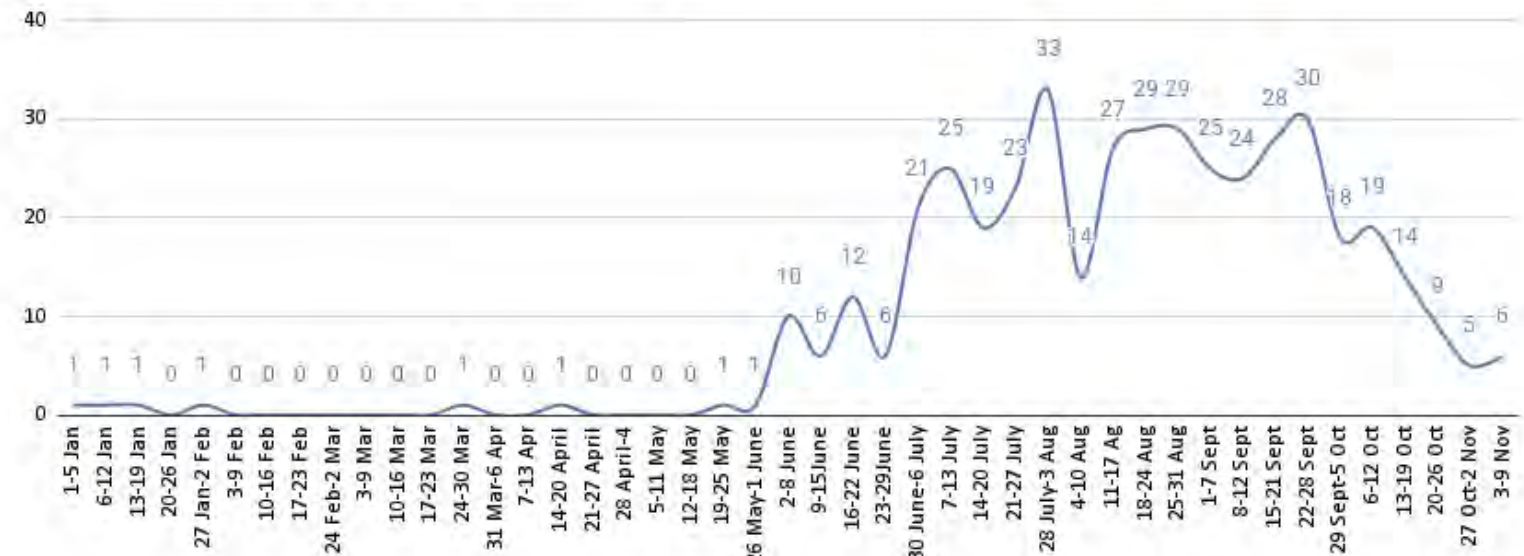
Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Region show a declining trend in outbreaks numbers.



- The same trend is observed in Thessaly.

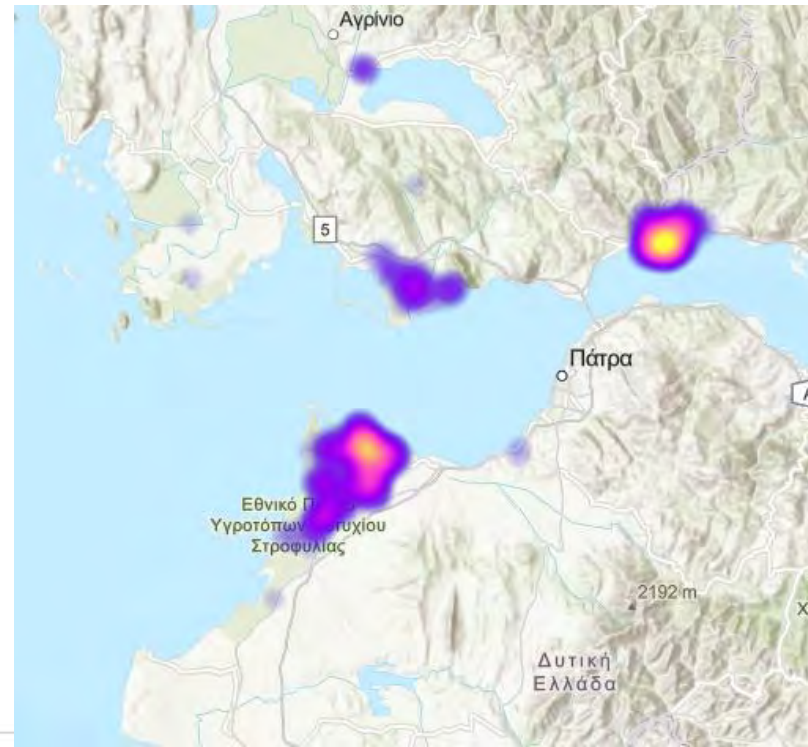


Thessaly Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox



# Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox in Central and Western Greece.

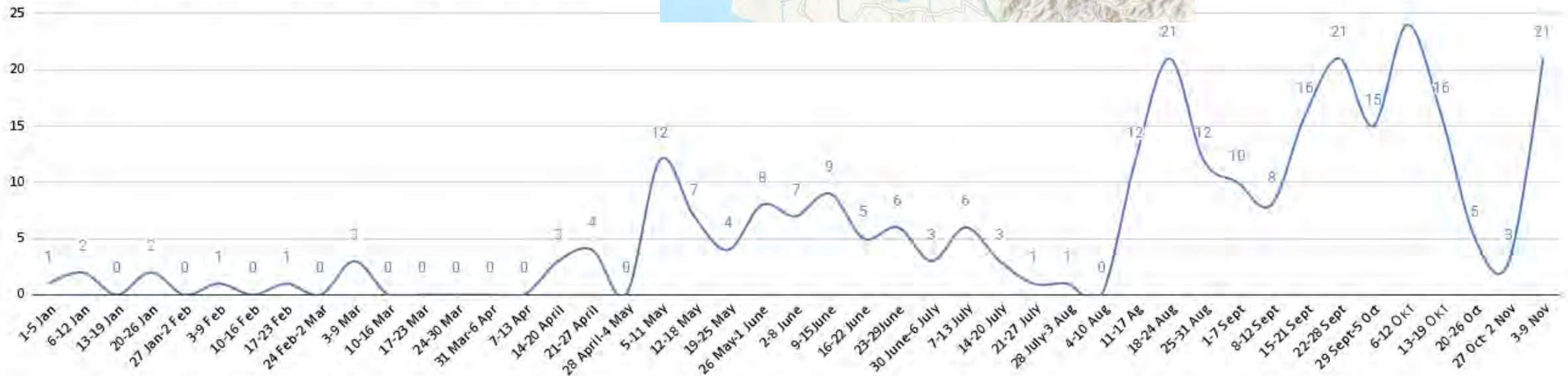
- The Region of Western Greece is directly affected due to its proximity to mainland of Greece



*i-GeoVET geospatial platform - Heat map.*




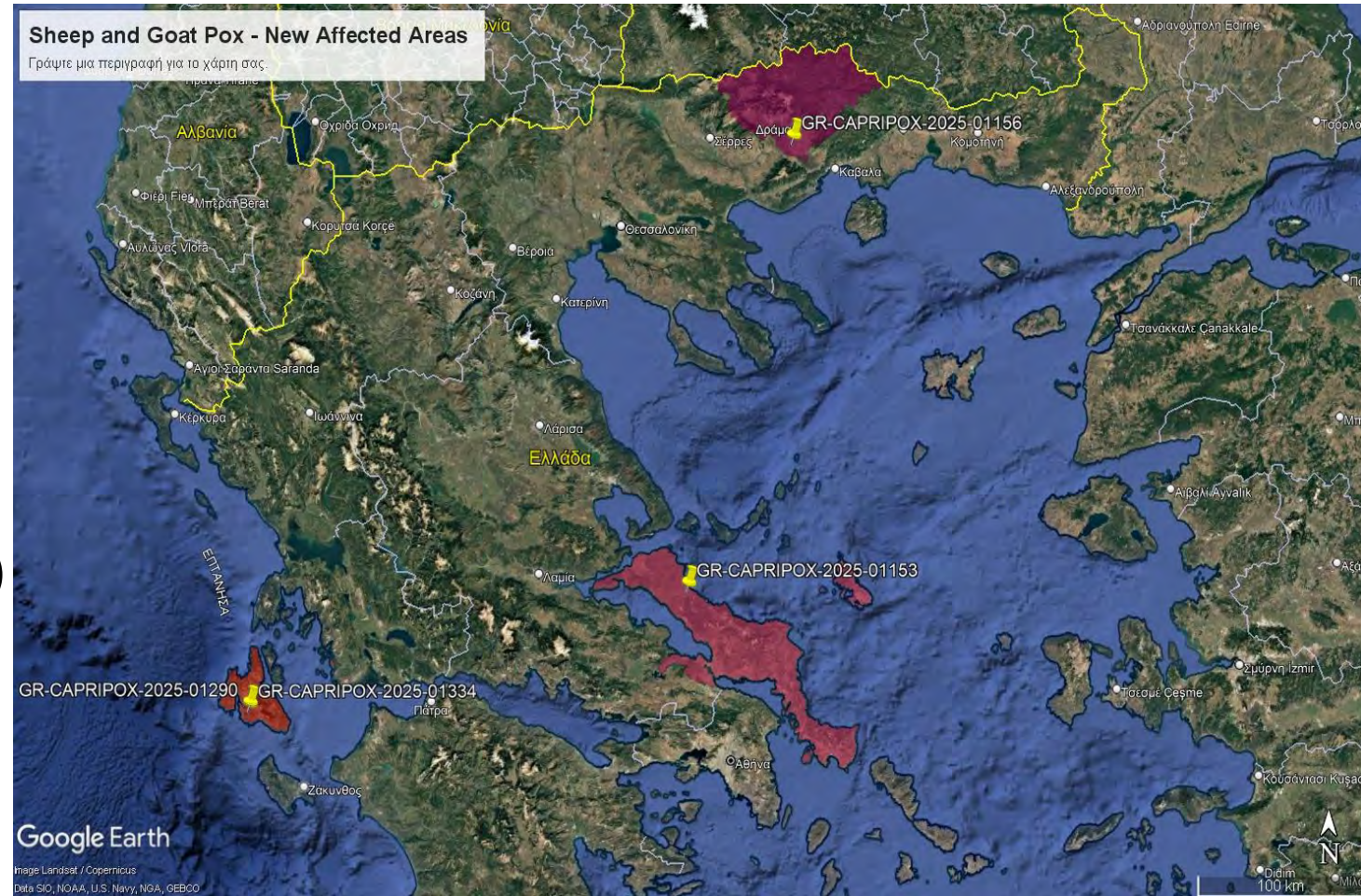
Central-Western Greece Evolution of Sheep and Goat Pox

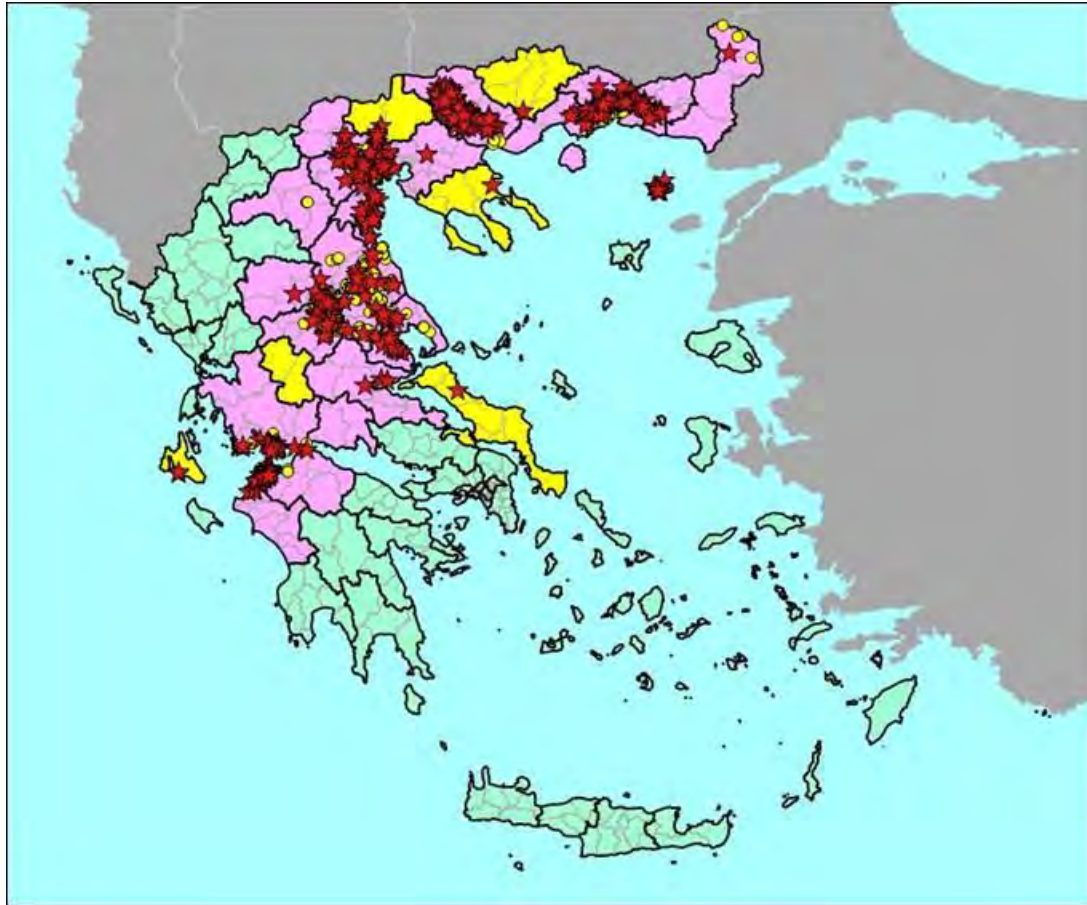




# Sheep and Goat Pox - New Affected Areas

- Evia (GR-CAPRIPOX-2025-01153)
- Drama (GR-CAPRIPOX-2025-01156)
- Kefallonia  (GR-CAPRIPOX-2025-01290)  
(GR-CAPRIPOX-2025-01334)





Current Status of protection, surveillance and further restriction zones



## Control and enforcement measures for sheep and goat pox management.

During the first month of Greek Police involvement, a total of **6318** inspections were conducted nationwide, resulting in **35** violations and **26** arrests for breaching of Article 285 of the Penal Code concerning violation of measures for the prevention of pox, in conjunction with Law 4235/2014.



# Greek Ratified Act of Legislative Content on Emergency Measures against SGP

Date & Source	Key Political Development
MRDF Press Release, 12/11/2025	The Bill "Ratification of the Act of Legislative Content on Emergency Measures Against Sheep and Goat Pox" was approved by a majority vote of the competent Committee of Production and Trade.
	The purpose is to accelerate procedures and tackle previous drawbacks concerning the fight against pox (fast recruitment of staff, fast procedures to obtain consumables etc)

## Greek Ratified Act of Legislative Content on Emergency Measures Against SGP: Part A – Relevant Articles of the Ratified Legislative Act

Article	Title	Key Measure for Pox Control
1	Management of Emergency Epidemiological Crises	Mandatory Priority Enforcement: All public sector bodies must prioritize the implementation of measures and controls outlined in emergency plans, adhering to directions and deadlines set by the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF).
2	Deployment of Military Veterinarians	Personnel Reinforcement: Allows the deployment of up to three (3) military veterinarians per Regional Unit for up to six (6) months. The aim is to address rapidly the pressing veterinary needs and to cover the staff shortage in certain areas.



# Greek Ratified Act of Legislative Content

## Part B – Emergency Regulations for Prevention, Control, and Management of Consequences.

Article	Title	Key Measure for Pox Control
Article 2	Livestock Farmer Support	<b>Immediate Financial Aid:</b> Mandates the immediate compensation of farmers for culled animals. Exclusion for non-compliance: Farmers not respecting the biosecurity measures or involved in illegal actions are excluded from compensation.
Article 3	Personnel for SGP Management	<b>Staff Mobility:</b> Official veterinarians may be relocated to affected areas for checks, sampling, culling supervision. <b>Incentives for Private Sector:</b> Grants incentives to private veterinarians and abattoir personnel for immediate deployment. <b>Recruitment of new staff:</b> Allows the hiring of emergency fixed-term staff.
Article 4	Sanitary Burial of Dead Animals	<b>Strict Timeline for Culling:</b> Burial must occur within seventy-two (72) hours of diagnosis. <b>Municipal obligations:</b> Failure of designation of a burial site within twenty-four (24) hours of the Region's request constitutes a serious breach of duty.
Article 5	Emergency Procedures	<b>Fast-Track Procurement for assignment of contracts:</b> for the necessary goods/services.

# Strengthening National Diagnostic Capacity

To ensure the effective implementation of the SGP Emergency Response Plan, the diagnostic capabilities have been reinforced:

- Accreditation and Integration of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization ELGO-DIMITRA's in the existing laboratory network.
- The Institute is certified to perform diagnostic testing on saliva samples for SGP.
- Samples are collected by the Regional Veterinary Services (field inspection teams) as part of surveillance and control of the disease.
- The measure provides for an early detection to be confirmed by the NRL, critical for timely decision-making on movement restrictions and control measures.



## Collaboration with EFSA

This collaboration seeks EFSA's Expert Opinion in regard of the different available products in the market and their efficacy for a possible vaccination strategy.

The objective is to develop a future vaccination model and protocol, ensuring the most scientifically sound approach.

The expert opinion will guide decision-making on:

- The optimal vaccine strain available.
- The target application areas (geographic zones –zoning vaccination) based on risk assessment.
- Guidance on a possible vaccination protocol (application frequency, duration, etc).





# National Scientific Committee for the Management and Control of SGP

## Key Recommendations and Proposals.

- The National Scientific Committee for the Management and Control of SGP submits a comprehensive package of recommendations aimed at controlling the disease and stop its spreading.
- The measures proposed can be divided in seven categories.

Category one:  
GENERAL CONTROL  
MEASURES.

Category two:  
MOVEMENT CONTROL  
MEASURES.

Category three:  
FARM LEVEL  
MEASURES.

Category four:  
REGIONAL AND DAIRY  
INDUSTRY MEASURES.

Category five:  
HUNTING AND DISEASE - FREE  
AREA MEASURES.

Category six:  
ECONOMIC  
SUPPORT MEASURES.

Category seven:  
BIOSECURITY MEASURES.

# General Control Measures - Recommendations

## Strict Compliance with Existing Regulations

Unwavering adherence to existing provisions and regulatory measures until epidemiological data permit relaxation. This constitutes a prerequisite for any subsequent control measures.

## Intensification of Enforcement Mechanisms

Enhanced implementation of measures and controls through appropriate mechanisms determined by the State.

## Veterinary Personnel Recruitment

Immediate recruitment of veterinarians in the public sector to ensure adequate supervision of State measures and abattoir inspection capacity.

## Laboratory Network Expansion

Immediate establishment of additional certified laboratories nationwide to expedite sample testing and reduce the burden on the Central Reference Laboratory.

# Economic Support Measures for Farmers -Recommendations

## **1. Direct Compensation for Positive Farms**

- Provision of immediate compensation to farmers based on total production data (animal numbers, animal-origin product quantities, feed purchases, etc.), with 50% advance payment of the value of animals to be culled.

## **2. Financial Assistance**

Provision of economic aid to farmers and farm workers for six months with possible extension for an additional six months in each confirmed positive farm.

## **3. Interest-Free Loans**

- Opportunity for farmers to obtain interest-free loans for farm reconstitution with commitment to remain in livestock farming for at least 15 years after disbursement.

## **4. Grazing Restriction Compensation**

- In areas where free grazing is prohibited, special subsidy shall be granted to farmers due to mandatory animal housing for the duration of grazing prohibition.



## Repopulation of Holdings: a farmers' request

We are receiving many requests from affected livestock farmers regarding the repopulation of the livestock holdings with goats, as an interim measure to restore income.

- Affected farmers have been without income for up to 15 months, leading to severe financial distress.
- This situation poses a significant threat to the viability of livestock farming and the overall stability of the Greek rural economy.
- Currently, no confirmed outbreaks of the specific virus (likely SGP) have been reported in goats in the affected region.
- Goats generally demonstrate higher resistance or different clinical susceptibility to certain related pox viruses compared to sheep, according to current field observations.

Still repopulation is NOT allowed in the affected areas.



Thank you for your attention.