



Sheep pox and goat pox in Greece

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

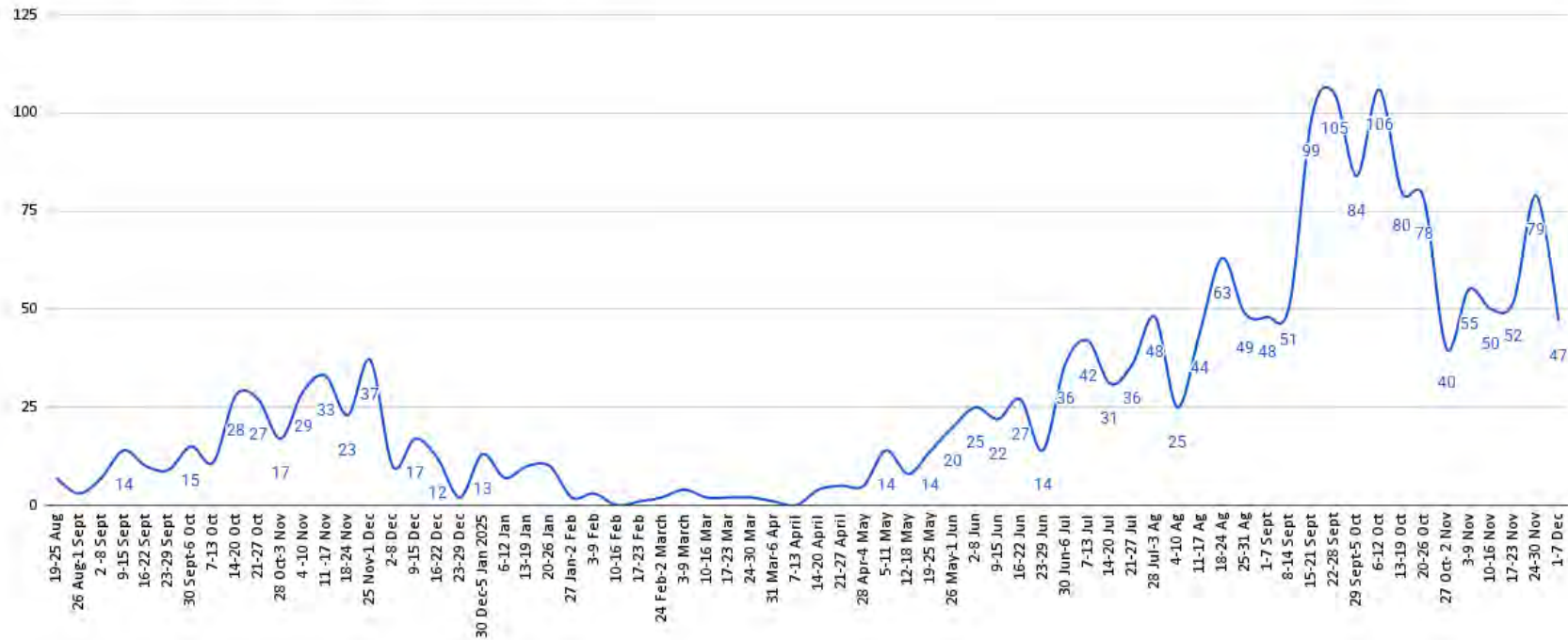
SCOPAFF 15 - 16.12.2025

Update on the Epidemiological Situation

The epidemiological situation in Greece, from the first outbreak of Sheep Pox to date.

- Total number of confirmed Sheep and Goat Pox virus outbreaks August 2024 – 7th December 2025: **1880**
- Total number of animal culled: **441.180**

Epidemiological curve. August 2024 to December 07, 2025

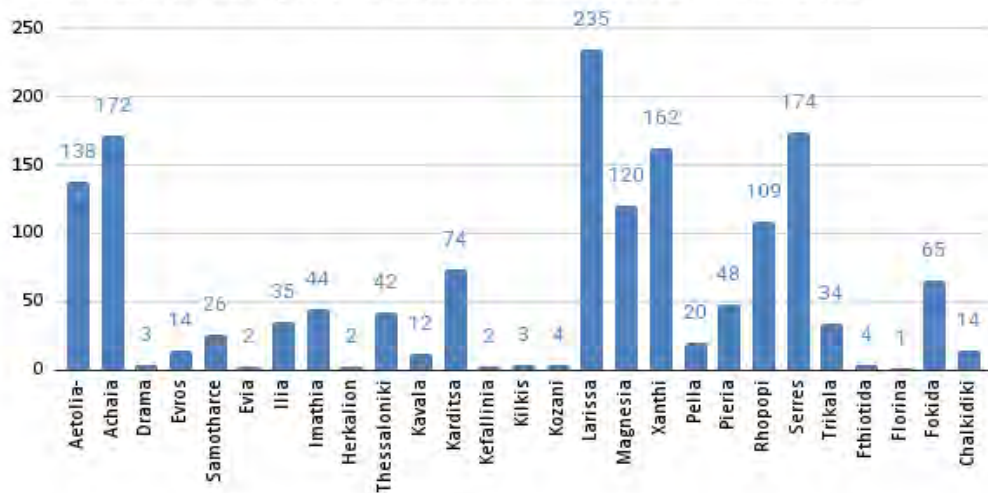


Update on the Epidemiological Situation: 2025

Total number of outbreaks for 2025: **1561**

Total number of animals culled for 2025: **343.142**

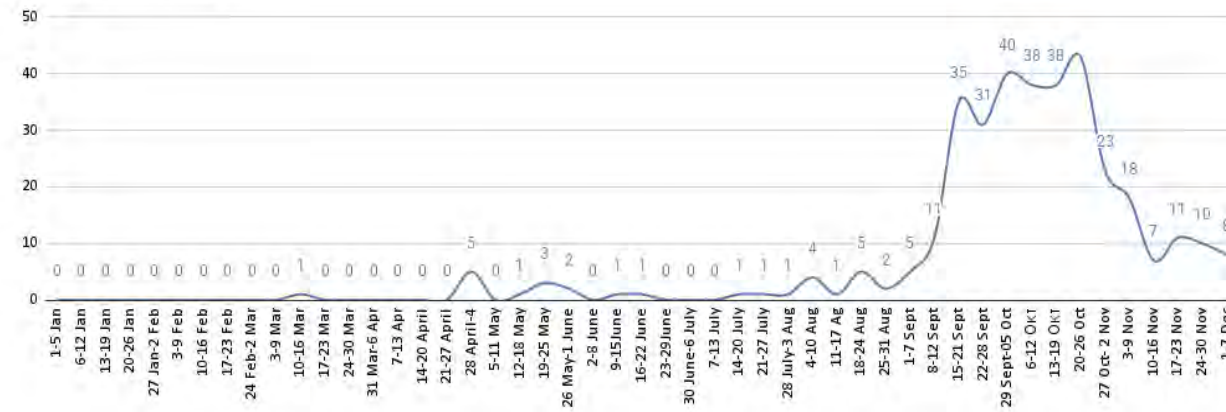
Outbreaks of SGP per R.U 01.01.25 to 07.12.25, Total: 1559



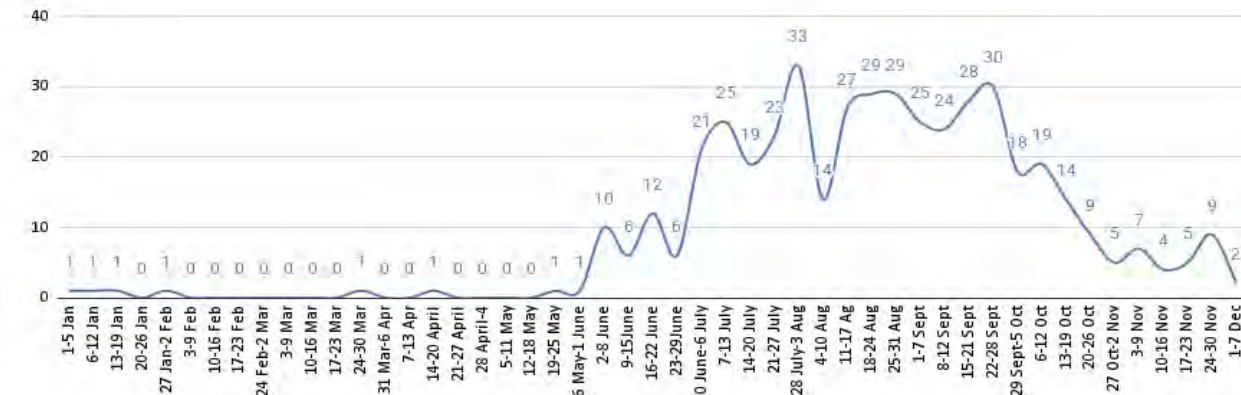
Update on the Epidemiological Situation

Decline in cases: A downward trend in outbreaks is observed in Thessaly and Central Macedonia.

Central Macedonia

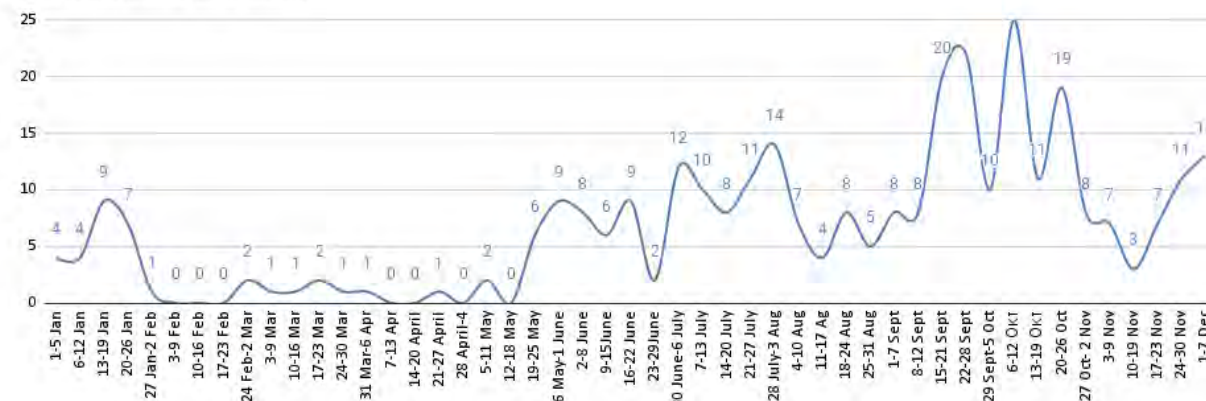


Thessaly

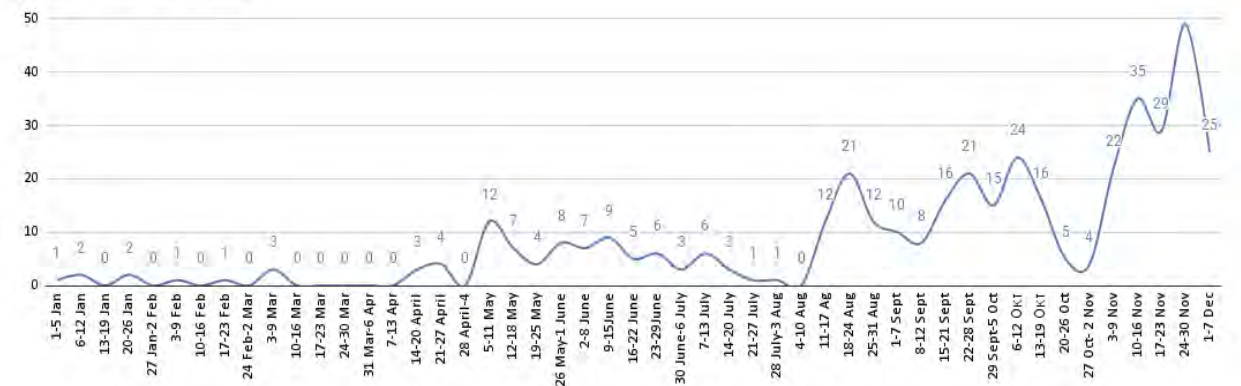


Detection of new outbreaks in East Macedonia and Thrace and Western-Central Greece

East Macedonia and Thrace



Western-Central Greece



Outbreak in Thassos Island

- Region: Thassos Island (Regional Unit of Kavala).
- Zoning Context: While the R.U. of Kavala is currently classified as a Further Restricted Zone, this outbreak is considered as a New Outbreak due to the island's geographical isolation.
 - Holding Type: Extensive farming system (free-grazing flock).
 - Location: Northern part of Thassos Island.
 - Characteristics: Animals grazing in open pastures (increased biosecurity challenge).
 - Epidemiological Investigation is ongoing.



Additional Control Measures for Sheep and Goat Pox (SGPP).

- **Implementation of Circular 340367/04.12.2025 regarding additional control measures.**

Zoning: Neighboring "Further Restricted Zones" have been merged into a single zone to facilitate better control

- **Strict biosecurity standards in place ongoing**



Slaughter Protocol

- **Implementation of Circular 340367/04.12.2025 :**

High-Risk Areas (Achaia, Ilia, Aetoloakarnania) and in Protections Zones of Serres R.U., Xanthi R.U., Rodopi R.U.:

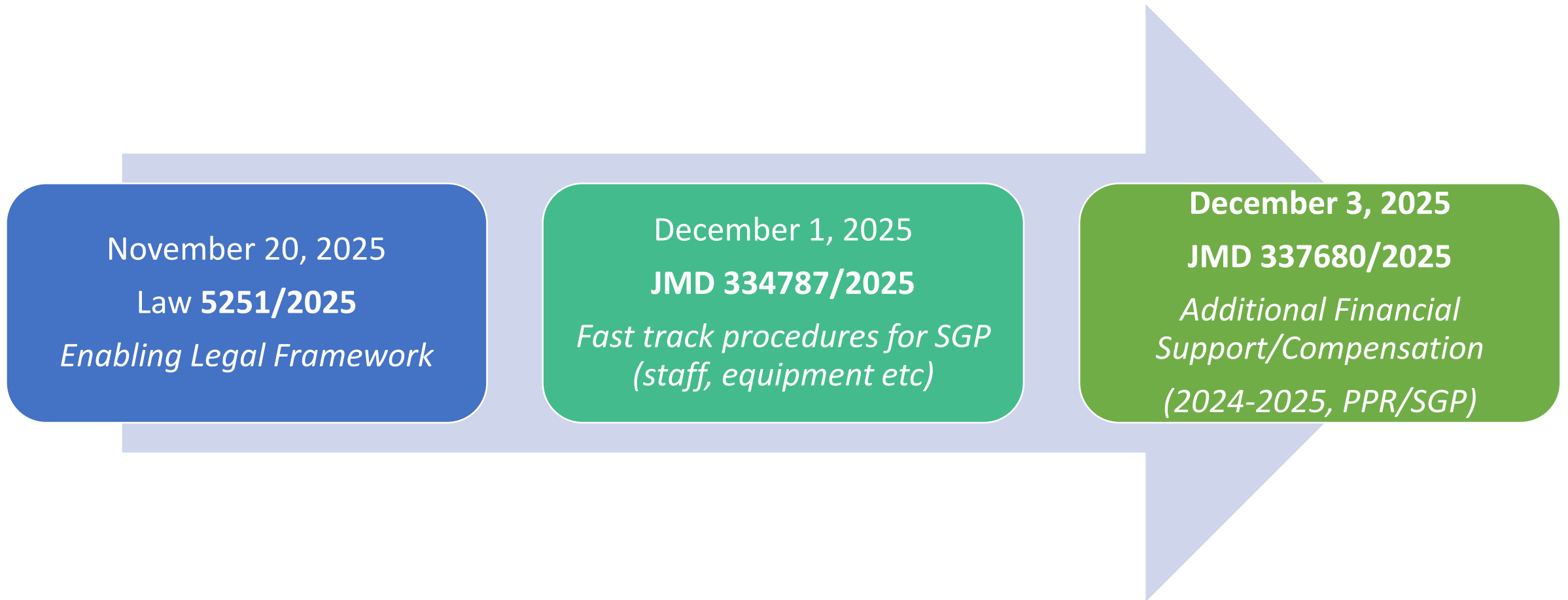
- Pre-movement testing required.
- Sampling: Random animals selected to detect 10% prevalence (95% confidence).
- Method: PCR on saliva samples collected within 48 hours prior to movement.

Other Restricted Areas:

- Surveillance based on clinical history and sampling 21 days to 48 hours before movement.
- Laboratory Capacity: Approx. 1,500 PCR tests/week, distributed between Larissa and Thessaloniki Veterinary Centers.



The New Legislative Framework: From Mandate to Implementation



The Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food has formally adopted the recommendations of the National Scientific Committee. **Law 5251 published on 20th November 2025** serves as the direct legislative implementation of these expert proposals, ensuring that epidemiological advice is swiftly translated into binding legal action and operational tools.



Implementation of Scientific Proposals

Law 5251/20.11.2025



Scientific Recommendation (Committee Proposal)

1. Reinforcement of Vet Capacity

- The Committee called for immediate "reinforcement of veterinary staff" and "authorized veterinarians" to monitor farms.

2. Rapid Sanitary Burial

- Recommendation for "timely culling and burial with strict sanitary rules" to stop viral load spread

Legislative Action (Law 5251/20.11.2025)

Mobilization of Military & Delegated Vets

- The Law mandates the deployment of military vets, compulsory secondment of public vets, and incentives for private vets (Art. 2nd, Art. 3).

72-Hour Burial Mandate

- The Law imposes a strict 72-hour deadline for burial after diagnosis and holds Mayors legally accountable for designating sites (Art. 4)

Implementation of Scientific Proposals

Law 5251/20.11.2025



Scientific Recommendation

3.Strict Bio-security Compliance

- The Committee urged for "stricter penalties" and zero tolerance for non-compliance

4.Operational Speed

- Need for immediate interventions without administrative delays.

5.Secured Financial Support

- Experts proposed "immediate compensation" to support farmers' viability during the crisis

Legislative Action (Law 5251/20.11.2025)

Compensation under conditions:

- Farmers who fail to comply with bio-security measures or perform illegal actions are excluded from any compensation (Art. 2, para 1).

Fast-Track Procurement

- Authorization of negotiated procedures without prior publication to secure essential supplies immediately (Art.5).
- Immediate Activation of legal provisions Rapid Financial Response (JMD 337680/2025) following the publish of Law 5251/20.11.2025

Control and enforcement measures for sheep and goat pox management.

- Since 14 October, when nationwide inspections by the Hellenic Police commenced, **a total of 10,330** checks have been carried out. These inspections identified **41 confirmed violations** and led to **36 arrests** for breaches of Article 285 of the Penal Code concerning disease-prevention measures, in conjunction with Law 4235/2014.





THANK YOU!