

Foot-and-Mouth disease in The Netherlands 2001 and Avian influenza in The Netherlands 2003

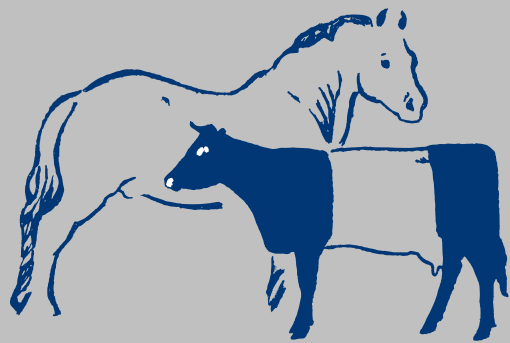
the consequences for the rare breeds

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Geert Boink

Stichting Zeldzame Huisderrassen



S T I C H T I N G
Z E L D Z A M E
H U I S D I E R R A S S E N

Stichting Zeldzame Huisdierrassen (SZH)

Dutch rare breed foundation

- Since 1976
- In situ conservation of animal genetic resources of farm animals in The Netherlands
- NGO
- No members, only supporters
- Co-operation with:
CGN (ex situ and cryo conservation), Ministerie LNV, all relevant breeding and representative organisations
- Tools:
Technical consultant, approved breeding farms (\pm 40), project agency (subsidized by Min. LNV), a lot of volunteers for all kinds of activities, website and magazine

Some characteristics of farming in The Netherlands 1

Numbers of farm animals CBS 2008

- Dairy cattle: 2.686.976 ↓
- Cattle for meat production: 1.203.219 ↓
- Pigs: 12.026.467 ↑
- Poultry: 96.678.019 ↑
- Sheep: 1.212.956 ↓
- Goats: 354.878 ↑
- Horses (incl. ponies): ± 400.000 ↑

- People: 16.450.000 ↑
- Total area 41.562 km²
- Agriculture area 23.040 km²

Some characteristics of farming in The Netherlands 2

- Mostly very intensive ways of farming
- 70% of the total agriculture production is exported
- 2.5% of the agriculture area is used for organic farming
- 2% of the total agriculture production is organic
- 95% of the rare breeds are kept as a hobby
- (still) No good official definition of commercial and non-commercial farming

Foot-and-Mouth disease 2001

- 20-02 first case of FMD in the UK
- 23-02 first culling of contacts, pigs, sheep and deer (4000)
- 12-03 first case of FMD in France (Mayenne)
- 13-03 standstill in The Netherlands
- 14-03 culling and monitoring of contacts with France
- 18-03 suspicion of clinical FMD in goats in Oene. Culling of the total herd on this farm
- 20-03 first confirmed case of FMD in Olst. Vaccination of all animals in a radius of 1 km.
- 24-03 EC agrees with the limited emergency vaccination. 500 cases in the UK

vaccination first, culling later avoids mediaevel scenes and stops the spread of the virus in a quick way



Foot-and-Mouth disease 2001

- 03-04 Until now 15 confirmed cases. EU agrees with emergency vaccination in the triangle Apeldoorn-Deventer-Zwolle. Vaccinated animals will all be culled later.
- 07-04 The battle of Kootwijkerbroek





Foot-and-Mouth disease 2001

- 11-04 two new cases in Friesland
- 22-04 26th and last case in Wijhe
- Total 260.000 animals were killed on 2500 addresses.



Foot-and-Mouth disease and the rare breeds

- 16-03 The exhibition “Vorstelijk Vee” is cancelled.
- 21-03 The first proved case of FMD. The SZH asks the Minister of LNV for special attention to the rare breeds and proposes voluntary vaccination.
- 27-03 The SZH cs asks the Minister of LNV permission for vaccination. Vaccination is an item on the agenda of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the EU that day.
- 30-03 Start of the introducing the emergency plan “De Ark van Noach”. Request to move of a number of rare breed animals to a “save” and isolated place. This plan will not be approved.
- 31-03 Negative judgement of the Court of Appeal concerning the possibility to avoid the culling of a herd of Schoonebeker sheep

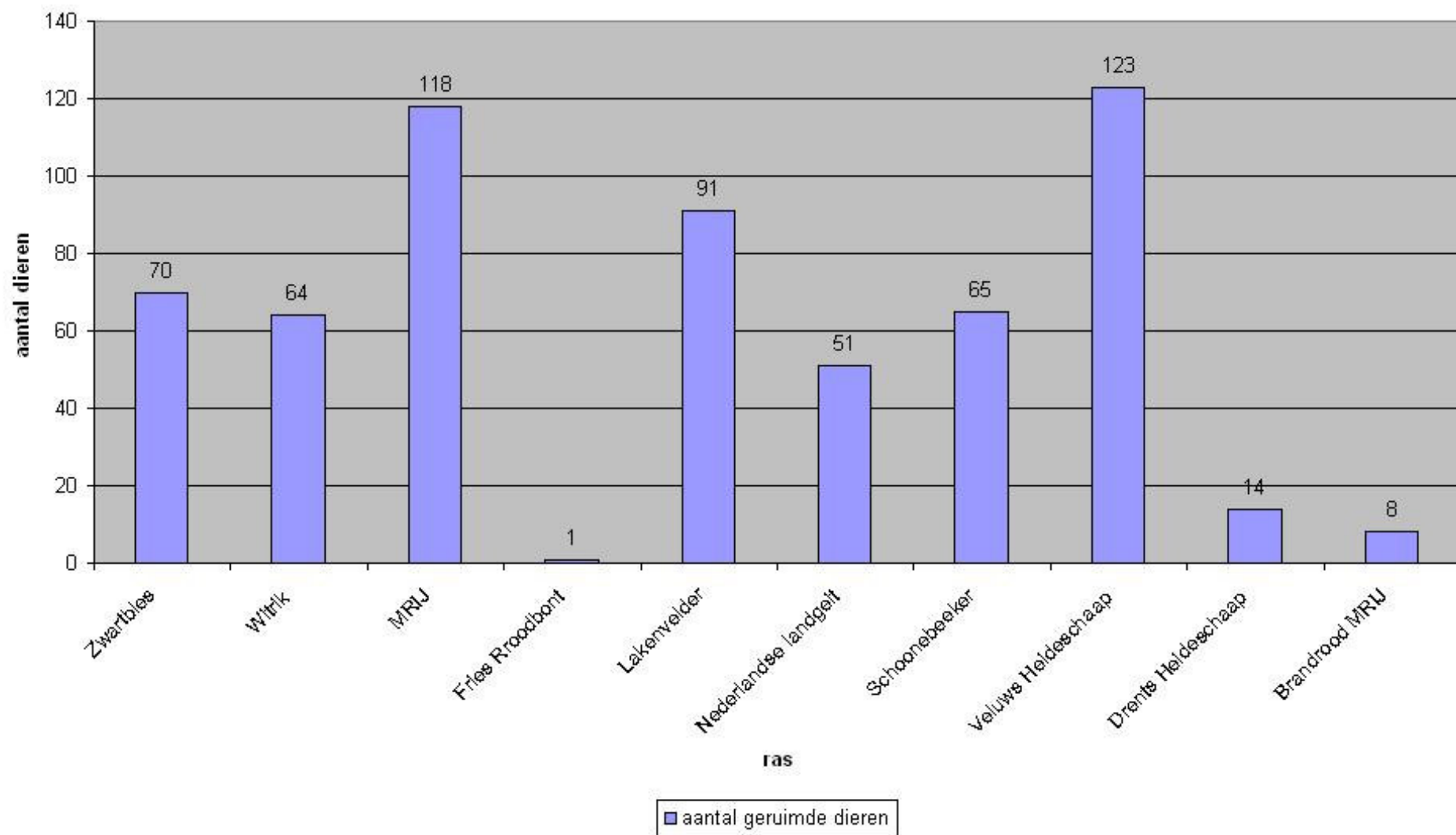
Foot-and-Mouth disease and the rare breeds

- 02-04 SZH cs asks for permission to isolate and not to vaccinate the herd of Schoonebeker sheep
- 05-04 Again a request for vaccination of the rare breeds. There is a positive advice of the PVC of the EU for extremely rare breeds.
- 06-04 Minister refuses to admit. He made it an item on the agenda of the EU. To prevent the culling it will be to late.
- 28-04 SZH went to the court for a second time to avoid culling of a herd of Veluwe heideschapen.
- 04-05 Negative judgment of the court. All rare breeds and other healthy vaccinated animals in the triangle Apeldoorn-Deventer-Zwolle will be killed.



(c) de Nieuwe Kaart van Nederland

Grafiek 1: Aantal geruimde dieren van zeldzame Nederlandse huiskierrassen tijdens de mond- en klauwzeercriis in 2001.



Zwartbleschaap: 70

MRIJ cattle: 118



Witrik: 64

Fries Roodbont cattle: 1 (100)



Lakenvelder cattle : 91 (1100)

Schoonebeker schaaap: 65 (1300)



Nederlandse landgeit: 51 (1500)

Veluws heideschaap: 123 (1400)



Drents heideschaap; 14 (1400)



Brandrood cattle: 8 (150)



Foot-and-Mouth disease 2009

- Contingency plan FMD:
 - Vaccination under conditions of the EU
 - Regular official consultation (ON&BD) with the authorities
 - Official list of rare breeds (FAO)
 - Registration. Studbook but also individual
 - During outbreak the rare breed animals are kept in isolation
 - No preventive killing of rare breeds when isolated
 - In case of FMD infected animals the whole herd, including the rare ,breeds will be culled

Avian Influenza 2003

- H7N7 virus, first outbreak HPAI since 1924
- 28-02 first case in a commercial farm
- 23-05 the last case. Total 257 commercial holdings, 14 non-commercial
- 1300 “cleaned out” commercial holdings, 16,500 non-commercial
- 30.7 million animals killed
- About 1000 people infected. Mild symptoms. One (vet) died.
- All poultry had to be kept indoors or in a way avoiding contact with wild birds by protected covering
- Rare breeds were not culled, they were kept in isolation

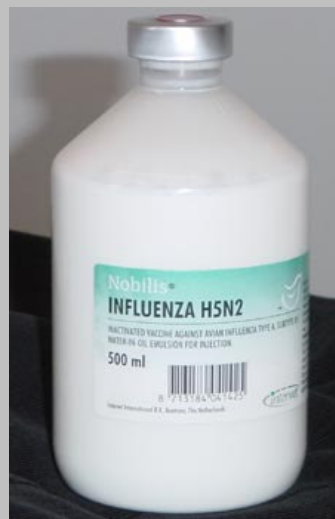
Avian Influenza 2003

- 167,000 healthy birds (not being a rare breed) of hobby holders were killed.
- In 2005 and 2006 during the time of the bird-migration all commercial and poultry of hobby keepers has to be kept indoors or be kept under protective covering. To avoid infection with H5N1 virus from wild birds.



Avian Influenza 2003

- March 2006 start of preventive vaccination.
- 3 weeks after vaccination poultry is allowed to go outside
- From august 2006 till august 2009 preventive vaccination is permitted by the EU and the Minister of LNV for hobby keepers and commercial poultry that is kept (partly) outside.



Preventive vaccination against AI in The Netherlands



“Looking back and forward”

1-07-2006

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature
and Food Quality

Why preventive vaccination?

Background:

- **HPAI threat present from migrating birds**
- **Protective covering no sustainable solution**
- **Resistance against culling of (healthy) animals**

Aim:

- **Reduce the risk of introduction of H5N1, as vaccination;**
 - Reduces susceptibility of poultry
 - Limits spread of infection after initial introduction in a flock
 - Prevents spread of infection between flocks
- **Offer an alternative for keeping the birds indoors.**

Results (1); practical experiences

- **Despite some practical issues, application went ok**
 - introduction of vaccination in new sector (hobby)
 - application leg rings, availability of vaccine in right dose
- **No problems (egg drop, mortality) due to vaccination in hobby- or commercial flocks**
- **Monitoring prior to vaccination confirmed status of hobby flocks (3 % of locations with few serologically positive birds)**
- **Monitoring for efficacy; sampling is currently performed**
- **Proper implementation of regulations by vets and owners (77 control visits; 26 vets, 50 hobby keepers, 1 commercial farm)**

Nevertheless; Participation limited

Results (2); participation per 23-06-06

	Registrations	Vaccinations
Hobby	1.833	938
Chicken	18.500	14.171
Turkey	500	266
Ducks	3.300	2.223
Geese	2.750	2.189

Evaluation; state of the art

Reasons for limited participation so far?

- **Release of prescribed protective covering during start up of vaccination campaign (1 May 2006)**
- **Practical issues in application of vaccination (leg ring, sampling)**
- **Consequences of participation; restrictions, administration and costs**

How to proceed?

Pilot study; learn from experiences and deal with both practical and more “fundamental” issues

Avian Influenza, present state of affairs

- General opinion at this moment: the risks of introduction and spreading of AI in commercial holdings by hobby poultry are negligible.
- There is no contact structure between the commercial and non-commercial holdings.
- Biosecurity around commercial holdings is improved
- Voluntary vaccination of hobby poultry and outdoor commercial holdings is still possible.
- No preventive culling of rare breeds

General conclusions

- Mass destruction of healthy animals as an instrument to combat infectious diseases in commercial holdings is not longer accepted by the general public.
- As a result of all the emotional reactions from the hobby holders new consultative councils were started. NBVH, NWPP and Platform KSG. SZH co-operates with these organizations, especially in the direction of the authorities
- Repealing the non vaccination policy is a good decision. The development of marker vaccines should make a more extensive use possible.
- The position of the rare breeds in the contingency plans is well described

Final conclusion

During times of war a lot of things go wrong, soldiers are shooting down their own people by friendly fire, innocent victims are made and a lot of more things go wrong

The fight against FMD and AI is like warfare

In times of peace we have to prepare ourselves for wartimes conditions and develop methods to minimize the number of victims as much as possible

Thanks for your attention

