Risk analysis approach applied to the development of compartment for BTB control

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Chile has become a net exporter of milk and dairy products in recent years with nearly 20 thousand farms and a half million milking cows. For over 25 years, the country has developed a voluntary free bovine tuberculosis (BTB) certification scheme and still herd prevalence are high, between 24% and 2.6% in central and south of country respectively. In 2011 started the National Control and Eradication of BTB, using a strategy based on the development of compartment for farms suppliers to dairy industry, as OIE terrestrial code oriented. In order to deal with epidemiological variability among farms and to facilitate the development of compartments, a method to assess and monitor BTB risk in dairy BTB farms has been designated. Risk of introduction, exposure and dissemination of BTB in farms that are part of a dairy compartment were carried out. Semi quantitative risk analysis guided by OIE and HACCP approach has been used in the methods. Possible routes of entry to domestic animals, wildlife and human as well as equipment and transportation vehicles, food and water sources were assessed. Possible routes of exposure and dissemination of BTB were considered like contact between farm animals, diagnosis and elimination of infected, shared facilities and equipment, food, water use and working staff. Special consideration was taken to the neighboring properties, characterizing them according to their level of risk. Critical control points were established for main bio-security measures for their control. Finally, a pilot study of compartment to control BTB in central Chile was conducted to test the methodology proposed, estimating the risk of BTB compartment.