

France begins vaccinating cows, sheep against anthrax

September 3 2018



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The eastern French region of Hautes-Alpes said Monday it has begun vaccinating cows and sheep against anthrax after an outbreak of the fatal infection in the region.

Anthrax has been detected in 23 locations, [local authorities](#) said in a statement, with 54 animals killed, mainly bovines.

Vaccination doses for 5,000 cows and 10,000 sheep have been rushed to the area to tackle the worst [anthrax](#) outbreak in France in nearly 20 years.

Anthrax is an infection spread by spores of the *Bacillus anthracis* bacteria which occur naturally and can be ingested by livestock and passed on to humans, usually through skin contact, causing black lesions. If left untreated it can be fatal.

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