

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN GERMANY 2025



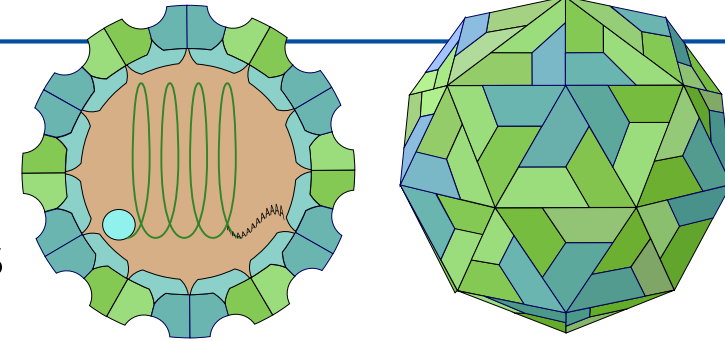
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Greifswald-Riems

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

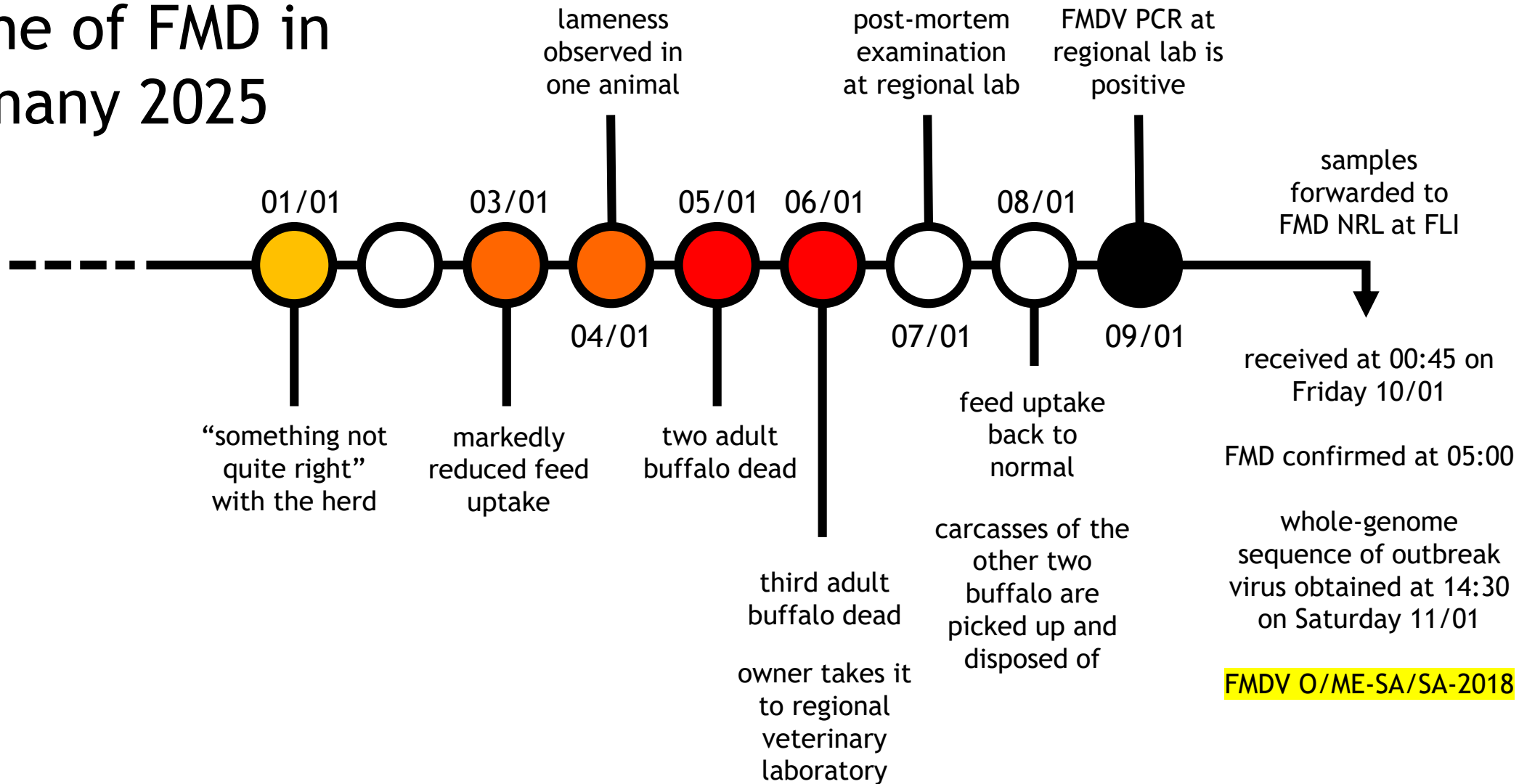
- *Aphthovirus vesicularae* (genus *Aphthovirus*, family *Picornaviridae*)
- 7 serotypes; O and A most common, C possibly extinct in the wild
- highly contagious disease affecting domestic and wild artiodactyls
- **not a zoonosis!**
- fever, vesicular lesions in the mouth, on the muzzle or snout, coronary bands and interdigital spaces as well as teats, reduced milk yield and weight gain; peracutely fatal myocarditis in young animals
- usually low primary mortality in adult animals, but long-lasting reduction of productivity
- large global impact from direct losses due to reduced production and indirect losses caused by costs of control and poor access to markets; FMD is **most important constraint to international trade in animal products**
- endemic in Afrika, South and Southeast Asia
- annual impact in endemic regions estimated to be between US\$6.5 and 21 billion; in addition, outbreaks in FMD free countries and zones cause losses of >US\$1.5 billion a year
- eradicated from Europe in the late 20th century, last outbreaks 2001 (UK) and 2011 (Bulgaria)



Germany has been free of FMD since 1988!

Timeline of FMD in Germany 2025

14 water buffalo kept on pasture in Hönow on the outskirts of Berlin



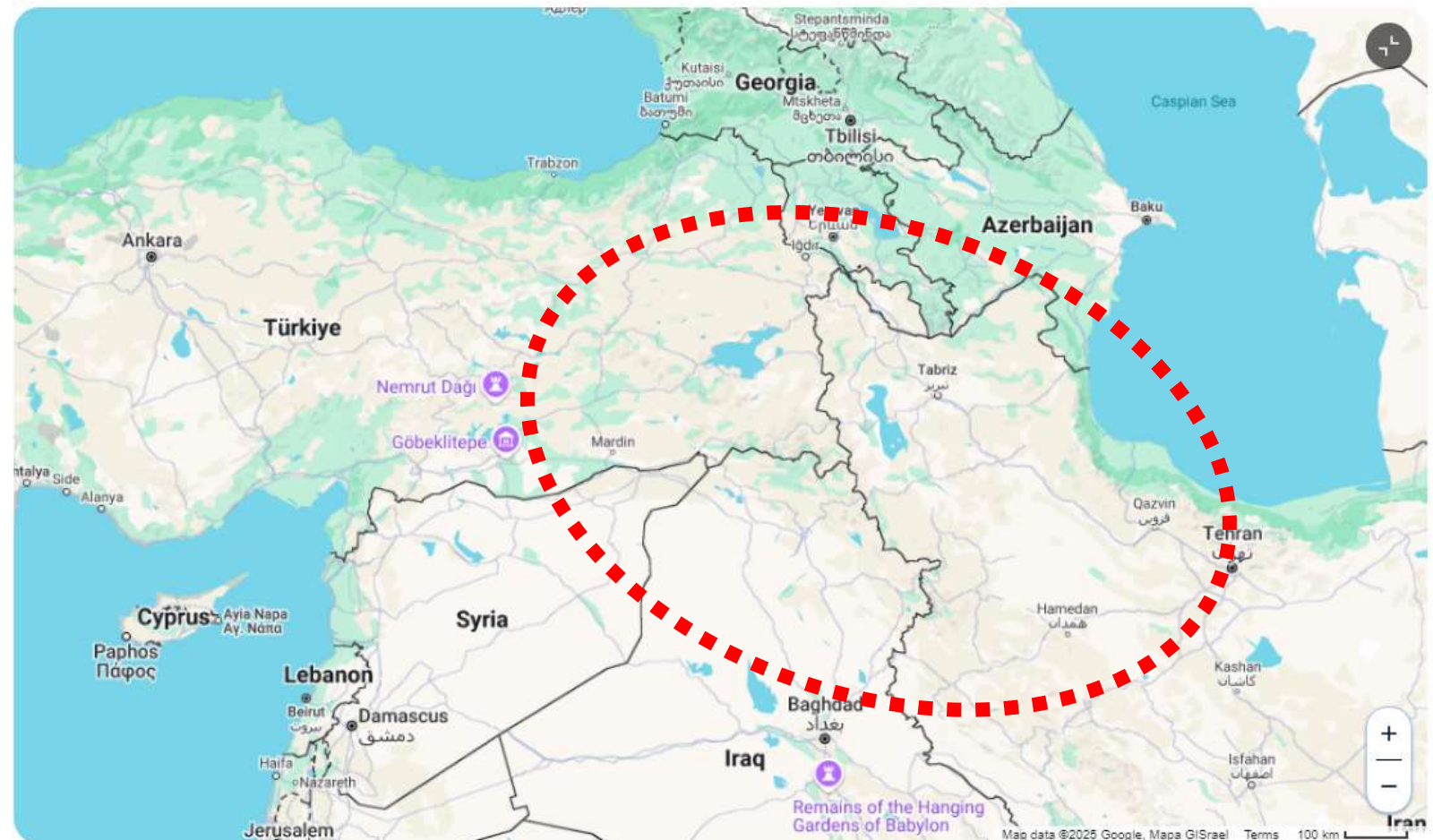
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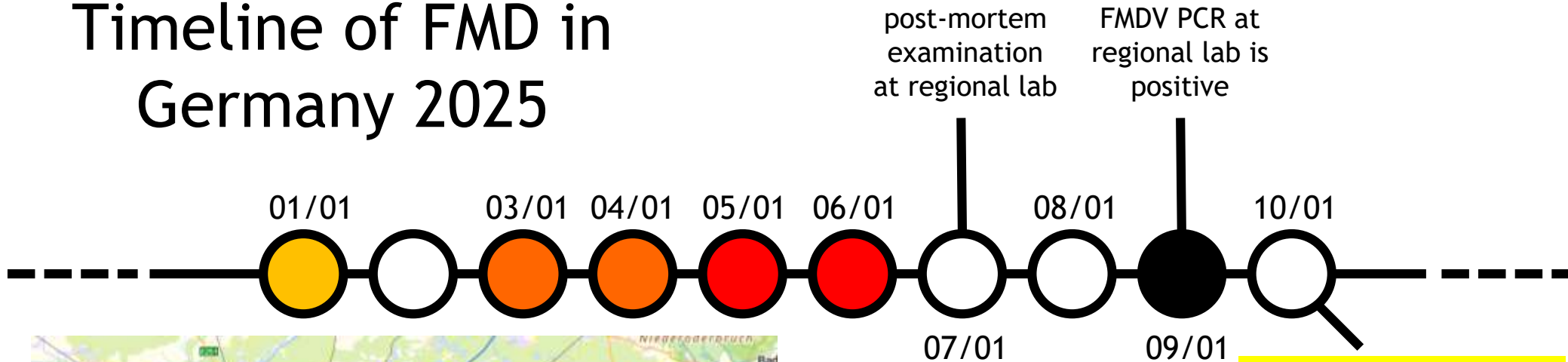
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- Sequence record is very sparse
- Closest matches in database are from Türkiye and Iran, but this virus likely also circulates in other countries in the region



Timeline of FMD in Germany 2025

14 water buffalo kept on pasture in Hönnow on the outskirts of Berlin



FLI confirms FMD in samples from dead buffalo

same day:

culling, sampling and disposal of remaining 11 animals in herd

culling of 3 nearby farms (263 susceptible animals)

13/01:

culling of high-risk contact (62 animals)



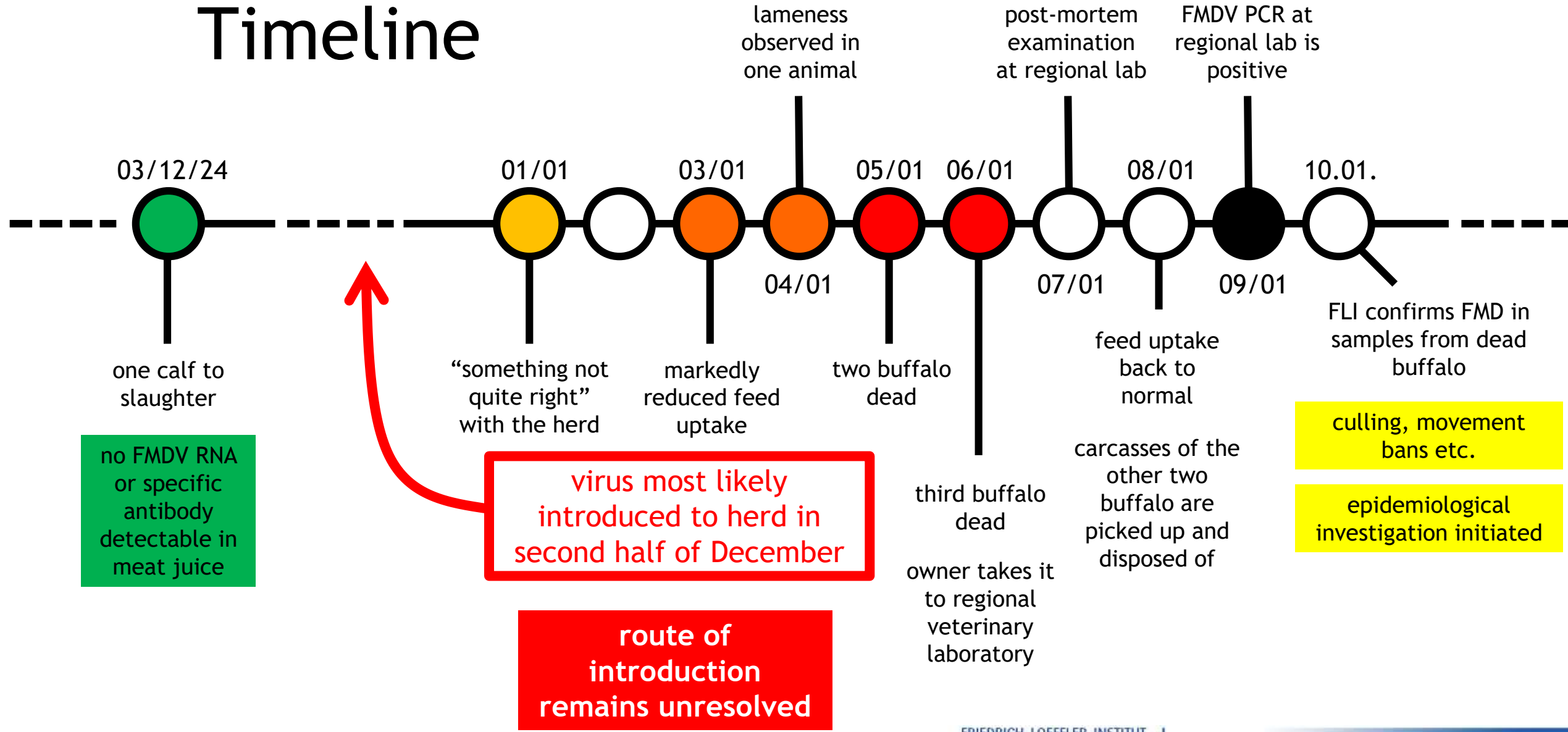
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Timeline



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Possible routes of introduction

- ~~Importation of infected animals~~
- ~~Importation of contaminated semen~~
- ~~Importation of contaminated feed or bedding~~
- ~~Use of contaminated vehicles or other equipment~~
- ~~Contact with travelers returning from endemic areas~~
- ~~Migration of infected wildlife~~
- Accidental exposure to illegally imported food of animal origin
- Intentional action



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The rest of the story (so far)

- clinical, serological and virological examination of all farms in the protection and surveillance zones and of contact farms (~7000 animals) – all negative
- serological and virological examination of susceptible wildlife (mostly wild boar and roe deer) in the zones (>280 animals) – all negative
- testing of all animals shipped from Brandenburg to other parts of Germany (and EU) after December 1 (many thousands) – all negative
- increased FMD surveillance in all German federal states
- protection zone lifted on 11/02, surveillance zone remained in place until 24/02 – CID (EU) 2025/323

Outlook

- on 24/02, the surveillance zone was replaced by a (smaller) containment zone (CZ) under articles 4.4.7 and 8.8.10 of the WOH code – once WOH accepts CZ, FMD-free status of rest of Germany will be reinstated retroactively; only CZ remains not free until 11/04 (3 months)



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