In conclusion, a seroprevalence of 43.1% was evidenced in Italian dairy cattle 29-47 months post-vaccination. Although the likelihood for a vaccinated cow to be still seropositive was significantly lower in animals vaccinated once (i.e. during the 2008 campaign) than twice (i.e. during both 2008 and 2009 campaigns), it is clear that for at least 47 months vaccinated animals cannot be included in (sero)surveillance programmes. The fact that a consistent part of vaccinated animals is likely to be still protected during that period also provides an explanation of why the control of BTV-8 infection by means of vaccination was so effective despite most immunization campaigns were stopped after two years.

References


