

News

Investigations Electromagnetic waves and fields SURVEY. Electromagnetic fields and waves: the new environmental scandal?

Breeders accuse electromagnetic radiation from high voltage lines, wind turbines or relay antennas of killing their animals. What is it really ?



Breeders accuse, among other things, high and very high voltage electrical lines of being the cause of their problems. (©Adobestock illustration)

By **Anne-Sophie Blot**

Published on 4 Nov 19 at 5:21 p.m.

Hundreds of cows die, no longer give milk, develop signs of dementia and are no longer resistant to disease. Calves that are born with malformations. Rabbits dying by the thousands. Pigs that refuse to get up, become aggressive, or even cannibalistic. And sometimes, the health of humans also begin to wobble.

For more than twenty years, breeders across France have been facing losses massive outbreaks and abnormal behavior within their herds. They are today convinced: their problems are linked to radiation from the fields and electromagnetic waves.

The culprits, according to them: (very) high voltage power lines, electrical transformers, relay antennas, wind turbines and panels photovoltaic plants installed on or near their farms.

Grouped together in an association, a dozen of these breeders announced Monday 4 November 2019 [that they were going to take legal action with the help of their lawyer Maître François Lafforgue.](#)

Are electrical installations and new technologies decimating the countryside?

For several weeks, complex, [actu.fr](#) looked into this problem to try to dissect the ins and outs and give the voice to the multiple protagonists it involves. Here is the summary and links to enter.

At least thirty cases recorded

We went to meet breeders in great difficulty: in Loire-Atlantique, [at Murielle and Didier Potiron](#), who lost more than 320 cattle since the establishment of a wind farm on their land; in Sarthe, [at Didier's Brault](#), diagnosed as electrosensitive since the arrival of a relay antenna at near his farm, [at Patrick Pilon's](#), whose [rabbit farm](#) was completely decimated, the fault, according to him, of a relay antenna; or even in the Côtes d'Armor, with [Stéphane Le Béché](#) and [Patrick Le Néchet](#), two breeders disoriented by a multitude of electromagnetic nuisances.



Didier and Murielle Potiron, breeders in Puceul (Loire-Atlantique) are fighting for the closure of the Quatre Seigneurs wind farm, in the Nozay region. (©L'Éclaireur)

Because there is strength in unity, [certain farmers have come together under the banner of the Animaux sous tension association](#), an association created in the 90s and relaunched in April 2019. It now has around thirty members.

What is the nature of the phenomenon?

This investigation raised a number of questions. First of all: [what are electromagnetic fields and waves?](#) Low frequency electromagnetic fields are produced by any device using the electric current, as well as by the structures transporting it (electrical lines of low to very high voltage) or producing it (wind turbines, photovoltaic panels, electrical transformers, etc.).

As for radio frequency waves, they propagate through everything modern means of communication (television, radio, mobile telephony, wifi, bluetooth) and therefore by the antennas which relay them.

Specialists admit that animals and in particular cattle are much more sensitive to electrical phenomena than humans. [How do these parasitic tensions manifest themselves on animal health?](#)

An expert body created by the State

If breeders are today clamoring for reactions from the State, the latter is far from ignoring the situation. The influence of electromagnetic fields on livestock was the subject of a first report from the Ministry of Agriculture in 1998.

The following year the Permanent Group for Electrical Safety was created in agricultural community (GPSE), made up of public authorities, breeders and stakeholders in the world of energy (RTE, Enedis, France wind energy, etc.). [But the](#) [The system is today controversial](#) because energy players, in other words the “troublemakers” are the only ones to finance it, the State having disengaged.



During the summer of 2019, before the liquidation of his farm, Patrick Pilon collected dead rabbits every day. In total, he lost more than 200,000 animals. (©Le Perche)

Still a lot of questions

The GPSE has intervened in around twenty farms since 2015. The expertise carried out by its stakeholders (veterinarians, electricians, etc.), relayed by the initiatives of certain chambers of agriculture, have sometimes provided solutions. [But in other cases, everyone declares themselves powerless.](#)

Faced with the persistence of problems and the many questions that remain, victims are calling for more prevention, which involves in particular better knowledge of the soil. “Things are happening in the soil and underground. soils, more or less conductive, which we cannot control,” repeats Serge Provost, president of the Animaux sous tension association.

What impact on human health?

Sometimes animals, who cannot be accused of inventing diseases, can be whistleblowers. Because what about the repercussions of electromagnetic radiation on human health?

Joint pain, sleep problems, tinnitus... some farmers are complain of very disabling ailments. But they are not the only ones: [in France, the number of people declaring themselves electrohypersensitive is constantly increasing.](#)

Faced with these emerging environmental problems, which could also be the origin of childhood leukemia or even brain tumors according to ANSES, [the research is progressing.](#) But a large part of uncertainty still surrounds the health effects of electromagnetic fields and waves.

An uncertainty which fuels the concerns and questions of those who say they are victims but also more generally of a growing part of the population. Everyone is now waiting for answers, as Serge summarizes

Provost:

We are not against progress but it must not come at the expense
alive! »