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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Avian Influenza Alert

Number 5 of 2020

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Avian Influenza: 13/02/2020

1. HPAI H5N8- Europe

- **Germany** reported its first outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in 2020 on the 07 February in a backyard poultry holding with 49 hens, 6 ducks, 2 geese, 3 pheasants. Non poultry were also kept on the same premises (9 canaries). This outbreak represents the first incursion of H5N8 into western Europe this year.
- **Poland** have confirmed three new outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 since Alert 03/2020, issued 28/01/20. The first was confirmed on the 29 January in a commercial flock of 36,183 turkeys in Wolsztynski. The second was confirmed on the 29 January in a backyard flock of 63 hens in Raciborski, close to the Czech border. The third confirmed case was on the 8 February in a commercial flock of 3895 turkeys in Ostrodzki.
- **Slovakia** has confirmed one further outbreak of HPAI H5N8 on the 27 January in a backyard flock of 9 hens and 1 rooster.
- This brings the total number of HPAI H5N8 outbreaks in poultry for 2020 to 33.

Map of Avian Influenza outbreaks in Europe to 14/02/2020



2. LPAI H5 Denmark

Denmark confirmed a case **LPAI H5** in a flock of 48,000 organic laying hens on the 29 January. See map above.

This brings the total number of HPAI H5N8 outbreaks in poultry for 2020 to 33. In all cases measures to control the outbreaks of avian influenza are being put in place in accordance with Council Directive 2002/94/EC.

A summary of outbreaks of notifiable avian influenza in Europe for 2020 to date is attached and will be available on the DAFM website shortly.

3. Current situation with non-notifiable LPAI H6N1

- The authorities in Northern Ireland have not confirmed any additional outbreaks of non notifiable LPAI H6N1 since our last alert 04/2020 issued 07/02/2020.
- It remains the case that two outbreaks of LPAI H6N1 in poultry have been confirmed in Northern Ireland to date.
- Approximately seven other poultry flocks in Fermanagh and Tyrone are under investigation for H6N1.
- However a number of other flocks previously under investigation have since been ruled out for avian influenza.
- Authorities in Scotland have also reported a case of non notifiable H6N1 in a flock of table egg layers.

Where LPAI H6N1 has been confirmed, initial restrictions imposed by the relevant authorities have been lifted as this is a non notifiable subtype of avian influenza. Decisions in relation to measures to deal with the disease are the responsibility of the producer involved.

Conclusions

The spread of H5N8 in Europe, as well as the outbreaks of non notifiable avian influenza in Northern Ireland and Scotland serve as a reminder to all stakeholders that vigilance is needed to prevent an incursion of avian influenza particularly during this, the high risk season. All flock owners should monitor their flocks closely for signs of disease and consult their private veterinarian if they have concerns. Flock owners should review their individual risk and ensure strict biosecurity measures are in place.

For clinical signs, see:

https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/clinicalsignsandleaflets/

For biosecurity advice please see:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrols/avianinfluenzabirdflu/biosecurity/BiosecurityInformationofPoultryFlockOwners060218.pdf>

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