Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Italy: epidemiological situation

(01 December 2010)
Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza -Italy-

In the frame of these monitoring activities, samples collected in a grower holding in Lombardy region tested positive
LPAI outbreak in Volongo (CR)

Lombardy Region
LPAI outbreak in Volongo (CR)

30 September 2010

The AI National Reference Laboratory confirmed by RT-PCR the positivity of a Type A, sub-type H7 LPAI virus (deduced aminoacid sequence at the cleavage site of the haemagglutinin —…PEPPKGRGFLF…) in a pool of tracheal swabs.

Preliminary results of sequence analysis of a portion of HA gene revealed a high homology with H7N3 LPAI Italian Strains isolated from 2007 to 2009
Birds present in farm

At time of sampling the farm had **1040 birds** of different species and production types:

- Pullet (246)
- Guinea Fowl (231)
- Chicken (214)
- Duck (156)
- Laying hen (60)
- Turkey (60)
- Capon (53)
- Goose (20)

All birds present in the farm were culled on 1st October. Cleansing and disinfection procedures started on the same day.

Epidemiological inquiry revealed connection, due to trade in live animals, with other premises in:
- Lombardy
- Veneto
- Emilia Romagna

Tests performed gave negative results.
Eradication measures implemented in Lombardy Region

- **Restriction Zone 1 km:**
  - Laboratory tests on commercial poultry holdings
  - Birds’ movement restrictions
  - Prohibition of fairs, markets, shows or other gatherings of birds

- In the whole territory of Lombardy region:
  - Serological and virological tests in commercial holdings of the whole region
  - Prohibition of birds’ movements from these farms until negative laboratory results was obtained
LPAI outbreak in Gatteo (FC) Emilia Romagna
The AI National Reference Laboratory confirmed by RT-PCR the positivity of a Type A, sub-type H5 LPAI virus (deduced aminoacid sequence at the cleavage site of the haemagglutinin – …QRETRGLF*GAI A…) in a pool of tracheal swabs collected in a hobby farm.
Birds present in the farm

At time of sampling, the farm had 3,527* birds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stork</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pheasant</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peacock</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crane</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nandū</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>duck</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>owl</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turkey</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crow</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quail</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goose</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chicken breeders</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>passeriformes</td>
<td>2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swan</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*On 19-20 November, 713 birds were culled.
2,814 birds of endangered species --> derogation art.40 2005/94/CEE

Preliminary investigations revealed the participation at hobby birds exhibitions in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto regions.

Further investigations are ongoing.
Eradication measures

as specified by EU Directive 94/2005/CE

- All birds in the affected holding were depopulated*
- Cleaning and disinfection procedures
- Restriction zone 1km
  - Laboratory tests were carried out on backyard flocks (any industrial holding was present)
  - Bird movement restrictions
  - Prohibition of fairs, markets, shows or other gatherings of birds
**Eradication measures**

*Derogation provided for in Art. 40*

- Granted for birds of endangered species reared in the farm in Gatteo

- These birds will be:
  
  i) subjected to **further surveillance and testing** in accordance with **the diagnostic manual**;
  
  ii) **not moved** until the laboratory tests indicate that they no longer pose a significant risk of further spread of LPAI
Ministero della Salute

UFF III

Centro Nazionale di lotta ed Emergenza contro le malattie animali

Low pathogenic Avian Influenza H7 in Italy: control and preventive measures in rural farms
All holdings are subject to: Biosecurity measures and Identification and Registration protocol.

Level of this measures is proportional to the risk.
**Regional Trade and Extra Regional Fairs and Markets Trade Dealers**

- Traceability of animal movements (computerized register)
- Training course for operators
- Point of cleanliness and sanitation of the vehicles
- Filter zone: both for operators and for any visitors

**Managerial Biosecurity Measures**

- Traceability of animal movements (computerized register)
- Training course for operators

**Quails and Anatidae: reared separated**

**Prohibition of re-introduction of birds from fair and markets**

**Local Selling Dealers**

- Biosecurity measures
- Traceability and movement registrations

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**All Holdings are Subjected to Sanitary Checks on the Basis of Risk**