Update on highly pathogenic avian influenza in the EU

30/11/2017

DG SANTE, Unit G3
Official controls and eradication of diseases in animals
European Commission
Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
Highly pathogenic avian influenza 2016-2017

• **27/10/2016**: start of the HP H5N8 epidemic in Hungary
  wild mute swan tested positive for H5N8
• **4/11/2016**: first poultry farm tested positive in HU
  Virus detected in further 24 Member States
  Six Member States infection only in wild birds
• **As of 07/2017**: only Italy and Bulgaria affected
## HPAI in poultry, captive birds & wild birds 01/10/2016 - 28/11/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member State</th>
<th>Wild birds</th>
<th>Poultry</th>
<th>Captive birds</th>
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<tr>
<td>GERMANY</td>
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<td>FRANCE</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3051</strong></td>
<td><strong>1190</strong></td>
<td><strong>62</strong></td>
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</table>
Weekly epidemic curve for HPAI H5 outbreaks in poultry
01/10/2016 - 28/11/2017
Weekly epidemic curve for HPAI H5 findings in wild birds (10/2016 - 28/11/2017)
Number of outbreaks in poultry, captive birds and detections in wild birds per Member State (01/10/2016 – 28/11/2017)
Migration flows of ducks across Europe
**Italy 2017:** 81 HP H5N8 outbreaks in total: Jan-Jun (16), Jul-Nov (65)

**Map:** Geographical distribution of H5N8 HPAI outbreaks from July – November 2017
Further restricted zone established in Italy
HPAI outbreaks in Bulgaria – 68 in total – 5 since 17/10/2017
Ducks (3), turkey (1), backyard (1)
2016/17 HPAI epidemic - Key features(1)

- **Unprecedented** in extent & geographical range
- **Heavy infection pressure** by wild birds & environment
- **Biosecurity challenge**
- **Free range**
- **Farm structures and rearing practises**
- **Virus persistence** over the summer period – wild bird reservoir, the environment?
Key features (2)

- Mostly primary single point introductions into poultry
- **Principally rapid containment** of poultry outbreaks
- Challenge in **high density poultry areas** for lateral spread
- In particular for domestic waterfowl that cannot be effectively confined
- **No disease in humans**
Risk management by the Commission

- Immediate information to other countries and international institutions
- Adoption of emergency measures
- Technical support by CVET missions - Veterinary emergency expert teams
  - Italy (22-24/11)
  - Bulgaria (27/11-30/11)
- Better Training for Safer Food in Member States and third countries
- Financial support for emergency measures and surveillance
Scientific advice on avian influenza

Animal health:
European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
10/2017: Publication of scientific opinion on AI and quaterly scientific reports on the situation in the EU and world-wide:

Human health:
European Center for disease prevention and control (ECDC)
Current global threat viruses: H5 HPAI

- H5 HPAI viruses circulate widely and some strains are maintained in wild aquatic birds
- Current global **H5N8 HPAI epizootic** (3 continents) has during 2017 spread south of equator for first time (DRC, Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa)
- Prospects for eradication poor
- Risk to humans low (no recorded cases to date)
- Still essentially avian virus without increased affinity to humans
- continuously evolving, re-assorting H5N5, H5N6
- Autumn/winter 2017/8-will HP H5N8 return?
HPAI H5N6

- H5N6 in the East Asian flyway (now South Korea)
- Established in wild birds mediating spread
- Possibly the same paths/routes as H5N8
- Small number of human cases
- Potential for trans-continental spread?
Influenza A(H7N9) virus with pandemic potential. Country: China; imported cases in Malaysia (1) and Canada (2). Number of human cases: 1,622 confirmed; 619 deaths (since 02/2013)
Influenza: the human/animal interface – One health approach

• Second G7 CVOs Forum, Rome, Italy, 5/10/2017 - CVOs document on avian influenza: http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_notizie_3118 listaFile_itemName_1_file.pdf

• DG SANTE meeting 23-24 October 2017

Chief Veterinary Officers and Chief Medical Officers (CVOs/CMOs) with EU Agencies and international organisations (OIE, WHO, FAO) on intersectoral collaboration for enhanced flu preparedness: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/avian-influenza_en

• Simulation exercises at EU/Member State level, COM, agencies, international observers
World Animal Health Organisation (OIE)

• Working group established for a possible review of the OIE chapter of the Terrestrial Code on avian influenza

• Terms of reference and information on progress to be published on the OIE website http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/
Thank you for your attention

DG Health and Food Safety
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals_en

EFSA:

ECDC: