

Current situation on the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza

(29/01) The following overview from the EU Commission provides an overview of HPAI events in the European Union in the period from 1 October 2023 to 11 July 2024.

HPAI outbreaks in the European Union (01/10/2023 – 11/07/2024)

Production type	No of outbreaks	No of animals	% of outbreaks	% of animals
Laying hen	28	1,470,826	12.3	20.4
Broiler	14	1,064,860	6.2	14.8
Turkey	71	1,639,152	31.3	22.7
Duck	48	1,127,954	21.1	15.6
Goose	24	131,616	10.6	1.8
Guinea fowl + Pheasant	3	27,041	1.3	0.3
Mixed	9	35,115	4.0	0.5
No information	30	1,721,606	13.2	23.9
Grand Total	227	7,218,170	100	100

According to the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) of the EU Commission, the following member states were most affected by the current outbreak of bird flu:

Bulgaria with 22 outbreaks and 2,111,631 affected animals

Hungary with 84 outbreaks and 1,750,174 affected animals

Poland with 34 outbreaks and 868,764 affected animals

Germany with 30 outbreaks and 652,244 affected animals

France with 9 outbreaks and 402,162 affected animals

Amendment to the lists of third countries for imports of poultry commodities from Canada and the United States

(29/02) Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for Canada and the United States in the lists of third countries authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry, germinal products of poultry, and fresh meat and meat products from poultry and game birds has been amended again in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The corresponding Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2028 has been published in the Official Journal L on 23 July 2024.

The **United States** have notified the Commission of four outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the state of Colorado (1) und Minnesota (3), which were confirmed between 8 and 9 July 2024.

With the implementing regulation that has now been published, the EU Commission has suspended the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry, germinal products of poultry, and fresh meat of poultry and game birds from those areas mentioned in the United States.

In addition, **Canada** has submitted updated information on the epidemiological situation in relation to two outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the province of Alberta, which were confirmed on 9 February and 21 February 2024.

Furthermore, the **United States** has submitted updated information on the epidemiological situation in relation to 18 outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of California (7), Kansas (4), Michigan (3) and Texas (1), which were confirmed between 14 February and 18 June 2024.

The Commission has evaluated the information submitted by Canada and the United States, and considers that they have provided appropriate guarantees that the animal health situation that gave rise to the suspension of the entry of consignments of certain products into the Union from the concerned zones in those third countries, as set out in Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, no longer represents a threat to animal or public health within the Union, and that, consequently, the entry into the Union of those consignments from the concerned zones of Canada and the United States, from which entry into the Union had been suspended, should be reauthorised.

Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 were amended accordingly to take account of the current epidemiological situation as regards HPAI in Canada and the United States. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2028 entered into force on 24 July 2024 and is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2028/oj

New Castle Disease in the Rio Grande do Sul region of Brazil

(29/03) As reported, Newcastle Disease was detected last week in the Brazilian floodplain of Rio Grande. After Brazil initially suspended all exports of poultry meat as a precautionary measure, only the Rio Grande do Sul region has been closed to exports since last weekend, for at least 21 days. In the meantime, further tests for Newcastle disease in Rio Grande do Sul have produced negative results.

So far, we have not received any information from the EU Commission or the Federal Ministry of Agriculture as to whether and if so, what protective measures will be taken by the EU. We will inform our members as soon as we receive news of the planned procedure.

Today, the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA) announced that two further suspected cases of Newcastle disease have tested negative for the virus. Thus, the only confirmed case occurred in a commercial poultry establishment of cutting, located in the city of Anta Gorda, in the Taquari Valley, on July 17. On Wednesday, 24 July, it was published, in an extra edition of the Official Gazette, the [reduction of the scope of the animal health emergency area in the state of Rio Grande do Sul](#) to the municipalities of Anta Gorda, Doctor Ricardo, Putinga, Ilopolis and Relvado. MAPA also points out that, so far, no suspicion of new outbreaks for the DNC has been identified, in the 443 properties visited, including the total number of commercial poultry production housing located in the perifocus area. “The negative results reinforce that the confirmed focus is an isolated health event and that there are no signs of spread around the commercial farm where the virus has been identified,” said Carlos Fávaro, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock. After the reduction of the scope of the zoosanitary emergency area, the Ministry also updated the areas of suspension of temporary certification for exports of poultry meat and their products. MAPA points out that the rules of suspension are reviewed daily, in view of the ongoing negotiations with the partner countries.

Current situation on African swine fever

(29/04) In **Germany**, there is a second case of African swine fever (ASF) in a domestic pig herd with more than 1,100 pigs in the Hessian district of Groß-Gerau. This was announced by the Ministry of Agriculture in Wiesbaden on 18 July. ASF had already been detected at the beginning of July in a farm with nine pigs near Biebesheim am Rhein, also in the Groß-Gerau district. In the same area, there had been the first ASF case in a wild boar in mid-June.

On 24 July, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2051 laying down specific control measures for African swine fever (ASF) and amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 was published in the Official Journal L. Previously, there have been new outbreaks of African swine fever in wild

porcine animals in the **Czech Republic, Germany and Poland**, as well as new outbreaks of African swine fever in kept porcine animals in **Lithuania and Poland**.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2051 is available at the following link:

http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2051/oj

Committee for the Common Organisation of the Agricultural Markets (Annex)

(29/06) The most recent meeting of the joint management committee for animal products took place on Thursday, on 18 July. The agenda includes inter alia the market situation in the egg and poultry sector. The next meeting of the Common Management Committee is expected to take place on 15 August 2024.

The presentation on the situation on the EU-poultry meat market was provided by the Commission and is attached and also available on the EPEGA homepage under the following link:

http://intranet.epega.org/meta_downloads/96896/EU_market_situation_poultry-July_2024.pdf

EU allows petitions on the abolition of livestock farming and food labelling

(29/07) On 24 July, the European Commission decided to register two European Citizens' Initiatives, entitled 'Stop Cruelty Stop Slaughter' and 'Stop Fake Food: Origin on Label'.

The organisers of the '**Stop Cruelty Stop Slaughter**' initiative call for the Commission to introduce incentives for producing plant proteins, including plant-based milk and egg substitutes, as well as cultivated meat. The organisers also call for reducing the number of farm animals and progressively closing all animal farms.

The organisers of the '**Stop Fake Food: Origin on Label**' initiative call for the Commission to propose measures that ensure European consumers have access to transparent information about the food they buy and that their expectations regarding food quality and sustainability are met. The initiative also calls for ensuring clear and explicit labeling of the origin for all products and for adherence to consistent environmental, health and labour standards in the internal market.

Both European Citizens' Initiatives fulfil the formal conditions established in the relevant legislation. The Commission therefore considers that they are legally admissible. The Commission has not analysed the substance of the proposals at this stage. The decision to register an initiative is based on a legal analysis of its admissibility under the European Citizens' Initiative Regulation. It does not prejudge the legal and political conclusions of the Commission on these initiatives and the action it would take, if any, in case any of these initiatives obtains the necessary support of at least one million EU citizens. The content of the initiatives only expresses the views of the group of organisers, and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the Commission.

Following the registration, the organisers have six months to open the signature collection. If a European Citizens' Initiative receives at least one million statements of support within one year with minimum numbers reached in at least seven different Member States, the Commission will have to react. The Commission will have to decide whether or not it will take action in response to the request, and will be required to explain its reasoning.

Weitere Informationen sind unter folgendem Link zu finden:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_3726

Committee chairmen of the new EU Parliament elected

(29/08) The Agriculture Committee of the newly elected European Parliament can start its work. On 23 July, the members of the committee elected a new chair in a secret ballot. The committee will be chaired

by the Czech Veronika Vrecionová with immediate effect. She belongs to the liberal-conservative Civic Democratic Party (ODS). The ODS is part of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group. 31 of 49 full members voted for Vrecionová, eight voted against. The new committee chairwoman announced that she would stand up for family-run agricultural businesses as well as small and medium-sized farms in agriculture. A massive reduction in bureaucracy is necessary. According to Vrecionová, the design of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must consider the potential accession of Ukraine to the EU in the future. Personally, the Czech wants to concentrate on the area of animal welfare.

Daniel Buda, the previous committee chairman Norbert Lins and Eric Sargiacomo were appointed deputy chairmen of the Agriculture Committee. Buda and Lins belong to the European People's Party (EPP), Sargiacomo to the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D). The CDU politician Lins was able to clearly prevail against Mireira Borrás Pabón in the election. She is a member of the Spanish party Vox, which sits on the right-wing edge of the European Parliament in the Patriots for Europe (Pfe) group.

The important Committee on Environment and Health will be chaired by the Italian Antonio Decaro of the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) group. This expert committee of the European Parliament was involved in almost every second legislative procedure in the last legislative period. In the future, the budget control committee will be headed by CDU politician Niclas Herbst from the EPP group.

Agriculture in the Eastern EU still has potential

(29/09) Several Central and Eastern European EU countries have underlined their potential of agricultural production in a joint paper. Poland's Minister of Agriculture Czesław Siekierski presented a corresponding declaration by the Ministers of Agriculture and Research from ten Central and Eastern European EU member states at the Agriculture Council on 16 July. In addition to Poland, these include Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. This means that the days in which the Western member states largely single-handedly determined EU agricultural policy are probably finally numbered. According to Siekierski, the main aim is to raise previously untapped capabilities in the eastern EU. As part of the so-called BIOEAST initiative, an agricultural research network is to be set up for this purpose. According to Poland, this should also involve third countries, such as Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkans. But Western EU states are also invited to join the cooperation platform.

The goals mentioned in the joint declaration include food security and autonomy as well as healthy soils, resilient supply chains and the local processing of biomass. The EU Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament are also called upon to "take this declaration into account" in the strategic planning of the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski also underlines the still untapped potential in Central and Eastern Europe. However, the PiS politician also sees development opportunities through the network for the entire Union. Against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and the associated challenges for Eastern Europe, the German Federal Minister of Agriculture Cem Özdemir underlined the importance of stronger cooperation in the agricultural sector.

Hungary's Minister of Agriculture and Acting President of the Agriculture Council, István Nagy, announced that he wanted to initiate further conferences on the topic. One date is 4 to 6 December in Budapest. However, a possible new EU Commissioner for Agriculture will in all likelihood not travel to the Hungarian capital. Due to the foreign policy escapades of Hungary's head of government, Viktor Orbán, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen recently announced that she only wanted to send senior officials to events of the Council Presidency.

Both sides can benefit from Ukraine's accession to the EU

(29/10) The Ukrainian agricultural manager Dr Alex Lissitsa and the agricultural economist Professor Dr Alfons Balmann from the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg consider fears that a possible EU accession of Ukraine would be at the expense of the agricultural industry in the existing European Union to be unjustified. There is always talk of 100,000 hectares of megafarms in Ukraine, which allegedly dominate agriculture there. "This image is not true," says Dr Lissitsa in an interview with AgraEurope. The vast majority of the land is farmed by companies between 1,000 and 10,000 hectares. The graduate of Berlin's Humboldt University points to enormous productivity gains in Ukrainian agriculture in the 20 years before the start of the war in 2022. EU agriculture could "learn a lot from us". The Ukrainian agricultural sector hopes that accession will provide reliability in the political and economic framework conditions: "The Ukrainians are not sitting around waiting for billions in subsidies from Brussels," said Dr. Lissitsa, who has written a much-acclaimed book about the development of his country in recent years with "My Wild Nation".

Professor Dr Balmann disagrees with fears that domestic agriculture will come under massive pressure if Ukraine joins the EU. Animal husbandry in Germany is already benefiting from grain imports from Ukraine, to which a considerable part of the imports flow. With accession, the pressure to adapt to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will grow enormously, but it will have to adapt anyway. "The European Union's subsidy practice does not fit in with large-scale agriculture like in Ukraine," the scientist emphasises. In Ukraine, there is a huge need for infrastructure development throughout the country, especially in rural areas. In this area, state money is invested much more sensibly than in direct payments for agriculture. In Germany, too, one must think about aligning scarce state funds much more closely with actual needs. Ukraine's accession could help with this.

Annex:

- EU market situation poultry, July 2024

Imprint

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