

No emergency brake yet for poultry meat from Ukraine

(33/01) The European Union is once again imposing customs duties on imports from the Ukraine for another product, namely honey. On 20 August, the EU Commission pulled the emergency brake after the threshold provided for under the autonomous trade measures was exceeded. As is known, the emergency brake is triggered for seven agricultural products as soon as import volumes reach the arithmetic annual average recorded between 1 July 2021 and 31 December 2023. Previously, the import thresholds had already been exceeded for oats, eggs, sugar and cereal groats and the import restrictions were activated by the Brussels authority. The emergency brake has only not yet been applied to maize and poultry meat from Ukraine.

Of the 137,042.8 tonnes of **poultry meat** available in the second half of 2024, 93,422.358 tonnes had been imported from Ukraine by 14 August. This means that 68.2% of the duty-free FCFS quota with the no. 09.6740 for poultry meat from Ukraine was exhausted by mid-August. By the end of the year, 42,620.442 tonnes will still be available under this quota.

Current situation on highly pathogenic avian influenza

(33/02) The outbreak of avian influenza in dairy cows in the US is apparently much larger than official figures suggest, as farmers are reluctant to test their animals and risk the economic consequences of a positive result. The US Department of Agriculture has counted avian influenza in about 190 dairy herds in 13 states since March. The USA is the only country where infections in cows are known. The jump of the virus from birds to cows has increased concerns that it could also spread to humans. Scientists have warned that limited surveillance could weaken the US's ability to respond to further spread in humans. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, thirteen dairy and poultry farm workers have contracted avian flu this year. State animal and human health experts in three states said, according to Reuters, that the number of cases the US government is officially aware of is likely far too low. Some of the affected farmers would refrain from testing, as milk and meat from the affected animal may only be marketed to a limited extent for a few weeks in the event of a positive test. This means economic losses in any case.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is testing raw milk from cows to identify the virus in livestock. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has tested commercial milk supplies separately and stated that pasteurisation kills the virus, so the milk is safe. However, experts believe that the spread of the virus could be better controlled if more states required raw milk testing or compensated farmers more.

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

(33/03) Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for 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) 2024/2171 has been published in the Official Journal L on 21 August 2024.

The **United States** have notified the Commission of an outbreak of HPAI in poultry in the state of Florida, which was confirmed on 5 August 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 this area mentioned in the United States.

In addition, the **United States** has submitted updated information on the epidemiological situation in relation to nine outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of Iowa (1), Massachusetts (1), Michigan (1), Minnesota (5) and New Mexico (1), which were confirmed between 7 March 2023 and 31 May 2024.

The Commission has evaluated the information submitted by 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 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) 2024/2171 entered into force on 22 August 2024 and is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2171/oj

Current situation on African swine fever

(33/04) In **Germany**, African swine fever (ASF) reached a domestic pig population also in Rhineland-Palatinate on 15 August. A micro-business in Gerolsheim near Bad Dürkheim is affected. According to the announcement of the Ministry of the Environment in Mainz, a restricted zone III has now been set up within a radius of 10 kilometres around the domestic pig population, in which strong trade and movement restrictions apply. Previously, ASF had been detected in Rhineland-Palatinate exclusively in wild boars, for the first time on 9 July in an animal in Gimsheim in the Alzey-Worms district.

In **Poland**, the eradication of African swine fever (ASF) seems to be a long way off ten and a half years after the first appearance of ASF. Most recently, it hit two smaller domestic pig populations in the Chełmno district, the first ASF outbreaks in pig farms in ten years in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship. In June, ASF was detected in wild boars there for the first time in a long time. The Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship is the seventh province this year in which a domestic pig population has been infected with ASF. The most outbreaks in domestic pigs were recorded in Wielkopolska with 22. There were also cases in the voivodeships of Lublin, Mazovia, Warmia-Masuria, Pomerania and West Pomerania. In total, ASF has been confirmed in 36 pig farms nationwide since the beginning of the year, compared to 30 at the same time last year. In addition, 58 new ASF outbreaks in wild boars were confirmed within one week as of 13 August. Several of these occurred in areas that had previously been classified as free of the disease. A total of 1,178 cases of ASF in wild boars were recorded in Poland this year up to 13 August. In the same period last year, there were more than 2,000.

On 20 August, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2167 laying down specific control measures for African swine fever (ASF) and amending Annex I 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 **Germany**, as well as new outbreaks of African swine fever in kept porcine animals in **Italy** and **Poland**.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2167 is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2167/oj

Almost all of Germany affected by bluetongue disease

(33/05) Bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) has now spread throughout most of Germany. According to the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) of the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI), only the federal States of Saxony and Berlin had not yet reported any infections as of 16 August. However, Berlin is in a restriction area because of a case in Brandenburg. The epidemic had recently spread at great speed. At the beginning of August, infections were only known in North Rhine-Westphalia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse. Shortly afterwards, BTV-3 was detected for the first time in Schleswig-Holstein, Baden-Württemberg, Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, and in the course of last week also in Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Bavaria, Saarland and Thuringia.

As part of the current epidemic in Germany, which started in Kleve on 12 October 2023, the ADIS counts 3,615 cases of BTV-3 so far. Of these, 807 were reported last week. Due to the incidence of the disease, there are now requirements in Germany for the transport of live ruminants and products such as semen to other, unaffected countries. However, movements to and from BTV-free areas can still take place. This also applies to international trade. This was pointed out on Thursday, for example, by the Danish Veterinary and Food Authority, in response to the first appearance of BTV-3 in Denmark in 15 years. The disease had been found in sheep in southern Jutland. There is no trade facilitation through vaccination with the as yet unapproved vaccines against BTV-3.

Amendments to animal health protection published

(33/07) The EU Commission has recently published the following two implementing regulations as part of the ongoing amendments to the implementing decisions and regulations on animal health protection:

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2032 *amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases*

In Part I of Annex VIII (Member States or zones of Member States with disease-free status as regards infection with BTV (bluetongue virus)) the entries for Germany and Spain are updated and in Part II of Annex VIII (Member States or zones of Member States with an approved eradication programme for infection with BTV) the entry for Spain is adapted. The entire German federal states of Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate and the Autonomous Community of Catalonia in Spain will have their ‘disease-free’ status withdrawn with regard to infection with BTV.

The Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2032 entered into force on 2 August 2004 and is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2032/oj

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2043 *amending Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/690 as regards the listed diseases for which the disease-free status of compartments may be established*

Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/690 lists highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and infection with Newcastle disease (ND) virus as listed diseases for which the disease-free status of compartments may be established in accordance with Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. The rules for the prevention and control of these two listed diseases in the Union should now include the possibility of establishing compartments.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2043 entered into force on 19 August 2004 and is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2043/oj

Amending Lists of Establishments

(33/10) The European Commission has changed the lists of establishments approved for delivery to the EU for the game and poultry sector for the following third countries:

Meat from poultry and lagomorphs: Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Serbia, United Kingdom

Meat products: Australia, China, New Zealand, Serbia, USA, United Kingdom

Minced meat, meat preparations, MSM: Norway, Ukraine, USA, United Kingdom, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)

Meat from farmed game: New Zealand, United Kingdom, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)

Wild game meat: New Zealand, United Kingdom

The current lists of establishments can be found on the website of the EU Commission under the following link:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/directory/listing/establishment/publication/index#!/search>

Imprint

Editor: European Poultry, Egg and Game Association (EPEGA),

Am Weidendamm 1A, DE 10117 Berlin

Manager: Christine Amling/Sebastian Werren

Tel.: +49 30 590099-562, E-Mail: info@epega.org, Internet: <http://www.epega.org>

The information letter is prepared with the utmost care, but we exclude liability. Reports are confidential and for personal use only.