

Current situation on highly pathogenic avian influenza

(34/01) **Poland** reports an outbreak of HPAI (subtype H5N1) in a commercial turkey flock of around 14,730 animals in the town of Chociule (Lubuskie province), which was confirmed by the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) on 22 August. The town is about 90 kilometres away from Frankfurt Oder. The last HPAI outbreak was reported in Poland on 28 February 2024.

In **France**, the second vaccination campaign against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) will start in autumn. According to a statement from the French Ministry of Agriculture, the public sector will reduce its financial support for the vaccination of poultry against HPAI in the autumn. According to this, the state will "only" pay for 70% of the costs incurred in the first three months. In the context of the first campaign, the tax authorities had still covered 85% of the financial outlay. In March, the ministry had estimated the costs in this regard at around € 100 million. The second campaign to immunise ducks is scheduled to start on 1 October. Vaccines from the manufacturers Ceva, Santé Animale and Boehringer Ingelheim will be used again. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, 67.75 million doses have already been ordered. According to official figures, more than 50 million ducks had been vaccinated against avian influenza by 20 August.

In **Germany**, the Lower Saxony State Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (LAVES) and the State Veterinary Association have launched a new research project on the spread of the bird flu virus (HPAIV) in mammals. As LAVES announced on 23 August, outdoor cats are to be examined for the disease, as these cats could have contact with wild birds and poultry. At the same time, of all mammalian species in which bird flu has been detected, they have the closest contact with humans. LAVES called on local veterinarians to support the project. The samples are examined by the LAVES. The veterinary practices did not incur any costs as a result.

In the United States, the HPAI virus had recently jumped from cows to cats. In Poland, an unusual cluster of illnesses and deaths was observed in domestic cats in the summer of 2023, which were obviously due to the virus. In Germany, there is no known case of infection of domestic cats so far.

Current situation on African swine fever

(34/02) On 28 August, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2187 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 kept porcine animals in **Italy, Latvia, Poland and Germany**.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2187 is available at the following link:

http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2187/oj

Export of animals and animal products to the United Kingdom - Update of veterinary certificates (Annex)

(34/03) By letter dated 20 August 2024 to the competent authorities in the Member States, the European Commission drew attention to the current quarterly updates and innovations to the British veterinary certificates for the export of live animals and products of animal origin to the United Kingdom.

The updates to the UK import requirements include the following veterinary certificates:

- Fresh Beef - Minced Meat (BOV) GBHC300 (v1.3)

- Fresh meat or minced meat of pigs (POR) GBHC310 (v1.2)
- Fresh minced meat of sheep and goats (OVI) GBHC320 (v1.2)
- Poultry meat (POU) GBHC330 (v1.3)
- Meat preparations (MP-PREP) - GBHC350 (v1.2)
- Non-domestic ruminants (RUM) - GBHC710 (v1.1)

We have attached the complete list with the updates to this circular.

The following veterinary certificates were republished on gov.uk in July 2024, publication on TRACES-NT is still pending:

- Mechanically separated meat of domestic porcine animals (*Sus scrofa*) (POR-MSM) GBHC311 (v1.0)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/porcine-meat-health-certificates>
- Mechanically separated meat of poultry (POU-MSM) GBHC332 (v1.0)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-meat-health-certificates>

The updates to the UK import conditions that have been incorporated into the above veterinary certificates will enter into force on **30 January 2025** at the latest. They can be found in the attached annex or in the ‘version history’ of the respective certificate on the British website gov.uk.

The British Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) also points out that, in order to minimise the frequency of new publications, not every change or correction to individual passages of a veterinary certificate, especially formal ones, leads to the immediate publication of a new version. In the meantime, the current version of the Import Information Note (IIN) ‘*Clarifying Information - Imports of Animal Products GEN/4*’ contains explanations on specific issues and can be found at the following link:
<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/bip/iin/gen-04.pdf>

An overview of the available Import Information Notes can be viewed at the following link:
<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/bip/iin/index.htm>

The model veterinary certificates of the United Kingdom with the respective instructions for completion, including the model veterinary certificates mentioned above, are published on the website of the British government under the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-certificates-for-animal-and-animal-product-imports-to-great-britain>

Draft implementing regulation on the reporting of zoonosis analysis results - comments possible (Annex)

(34/04) According to an EU Commission draft implementing regulation on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, EU countries must carry out whole genome sequencing analysis and report the results of the analysis in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC on the monitoring of zoonoses when investigating food-borne outbreaks of infectious diseases transmissible from vertebrates to humans (zoonoses). This should facilitate the investigation of food-borne outbreaks and help to identify their causes, thereby limiting such outbreaks in humans and food recalls/withdrawals for the benefit of EU consumers and food business operators.

In order to facilitate the investigation of food-borne outbreaks and the timely detection of the sources of these outbreaks, the draft Regulation should require Member States to collect: *Salmonella enterica*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Escherichia coli*, *Campylobacter jejuni* and *Campylobacter coli* isolates from food, animals, feed and related environmental samples from food and feed business operators and during official controls when these isolates are linked or suspected to a food-borne outbreak. Member States should also be obliged to carry out genome sequencing (WGS) on these isolates.

In addition, the Member States are to submit the results of WGS isolates of these pathogens from food, animals, feed and the corresponding environment to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which has developed a joint One Health system together with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The Have-your-say portal offers the opportunity to submit a statement on this draft by 18 September 2024.

We have attached the draft regulation on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents based on Directive 2003/99/EC to this circular.

Netherlands approves third programme to phase out animal husbandry

(34/08) Animal husbandry in and around Dutch nature reserves is to be further reduced. In mid-August, the European Commission approved a further comprehensive aid programme of the government in The Hague. € 700 million can now be made available under the scheme. This is intended to compensate farmers for the voluntary closure of livestock farms in certain areas of the Netherlands until 1 October 2029. According to the Commission, the Dutch provinces have designated territorial areas for this purpose. These include moors, sandy soils, stream valleys and stretches of land in and next to Natura 2000 areas. The programme is open to small and medium-sized farmers who voluntarily give up their livestock farming in the eligible areas mentioned. Businesses are considered eligible if the site's annual nitrogen emissions reach certain thresholds. This is to ensure that the decommissioning has a sufficient positive impact on the environment. Windfall profits should also be avoided in this way.

According to the EU Commission, the aid will be granted in the form of direct grants and subsidised advisory services. Up to 100 % of the eligible costs are covered. This includes compensation for the loss of production rights and capacity. In addition, the costs of dismantling and disposing of production capacities and other expenses directly related to the closure of the site are to be covered. The scheme that has now been approved complements two existing Dutch aid schemes approved by the Commission in May 2023. These also have the goal of reducing nitrogen inputs into nature reserves. At that time, a total of almost € 1.5 billion was made available. However, livestock farmers can only participate in one of the three regulations.

Brazil increases production of poultry meat

(34/09) Chicken meat production is expected to reach 15.1 million tonnes this year, this means that the production will be 1.8% higher than in 2023, according to the Brazilian Animal Protein Association (ABPA) in its latest forecast. A further increase in production of around 2.3% to up to 15.35 million tonnes is expected for 2025. The consumption of chicken meat is expected to be around 45 kg per capita this year, the same as in 2023. For 2025, ABPA anticipates the possibility of an increase to 46 kg of chicken meat per capita consumption, which corresponds to an increase of 2%.

According to ABPA, chicken meat exports are likely to increase by up to 2.2% this year, with around 5.25 million tonnes estimated to be sold abroad. This would be a new record level, despite the challenges posed by the isolated case of Newcastle Disease. Next year, chicken meat exports could reach a volume of 5.35 million tonnes, which would be another plus of 1.9% compared to 2024.

Annexes:

- List: updates to the British veterinary certificates
- Draft regulation on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents

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