

Current information on highly pathogenic avian influenza

(42/01) In **Poland**, the 30th outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) this year was detected in mid-October in the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship. The H5N1 virus was detected on a farm where around 1.38 million laying hens were kept. These must now all be killed. In the three previously affected farms, around 60,400 and 60,800 fattening ducks and 41,500 breeding ducks had been kept. The total number of animals that had to be culled in Poland this year due to avian influenza will now reach a good 2.1 million animals.

In **Hungary**, too, there have been several HPAI outbreaks in commercial duck farms since the beginning of October this year. At the beginning of October, bird flu was detected in a herd in the southeast of the country with 25,000 animals, the Hungarian Food Safety Authority announced. Recently, there were further cases in three farms with a total of almost 50,000 animals. A farm with turkeys, a farm with geese and a farm with ducks were affected.

In the **USA**, a case of HPAI has been confirmed in the state of Utah at a commercial poultry farm in Cache County. This was announced by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) on 14 October 2024. According to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) report dated 15 October 2024, it is a laying hen farm with a total of 1,852,900 animals.

This includes the establishment of a protection zone around the poultry farm. In addition, increased monitoring and testing measures are being carried out in the surrounding areas. In order to prevent further spread of the disease, the culling of all animals on the poultry farm was arranged, according to the UDAF statement.

On 22 October 2024, the European Commission published Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2743 in the EU Official Journal L concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States following the recent HPAI outbreaks in **Italy** (Emilia-Romagna and Lombardy regions), **Hungary** (Békés and Csongrád-Csanád counties), **Austria** (Oberösterreich federal state in Austria) and **Poland** (Dolnośląskie voivodeship). The annex to the decision (EU) 2024/2743 contains the updated territorial outlines of the protection and surveillance zones as well as the provisional duration of the protective measures.

Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2743, which has now been published, amends Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 accordingly. Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2743 is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/2743/oj

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

(42/02) 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) 2024/2744 has been published in the Official Journal L on 22 October 2024.

The **United States** have notified the Commission of two outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the state of Florida and Idaho, which were confirmed on 7 October and 3 October 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, **Canada** has submitted updated information on the epidemiological situation in relation to an outbreak of HPAI in poultry in the province Saskatchewan, which was confirmed on 15 November 2023. The Commission has assessed the information submitted by Canada and considers that it has provided adequate guarantees that the animal health situation which led to the suspension of entry into the Union of consignments of certain products from the affected zone of that third country in accordance with Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 no longer poses a risk to public or animal health in the Union and that, consequently, entry into the Union of those consignments from the affected zone of Canada from which entry into the Union had been suspended should be allowed again.

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) 2024/2744 entered into force on 23 October 2024 and is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2744/oj

EU Agriculture Council: Commission should coordinate more on animal diseases

(42/03) The European Commission must take more responsibility than before for the joint fight against animal diseases. This is the central point of a declaration that France and Spain presented to the Agriculture Council in Luxembourg on 21 October. Jointly coordinated vaccination programmes against infections such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), bluetongue or African swine fever (ASF) are being promoted. The Madrid and Paris Declaration was widely accepted by the other Member States.

Spain's Minister of Agriculture Luis Planas emphatically underlined the importance of vaccinations. Member states must be supported in setting up antigen banks and in providing sufficient quantities of vaccines. At the same time, with a view to budget negotiations for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) next year, the socialist insisted that the EU budget for animal health should "under no circumstances" be cut. France also urged more cooperation between EU countries on the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Federal Minister of Agriculture Cem Özdemir called on the Commission to make concrete proposals on how vaccinations could be used to jointly combat animal diseases. Brussels has a duty here. The Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Femke Wiersma, underlined that the Strategic Dialogue (SD) provides a good basis for the future course of the Commission. Italy also made similar comments.

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

(42/04) The most recent meeting of the joint management committee for animal products took place on Thursday, on 17 October. 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 21 November 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/96960/EU_market_situation_poultry-October_2024.pdf

Brazil: Poultry meat exports expected to grow further in 2025

(42/06) The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expects a further increase in Brazilian poultry meat exports in 2025. Excluding chicken wings, this will be 5.0 million tonnes, which would exceed the value expected for the current year by 3%. This is predicted by the USDA in a recent report, in which it refers to the extensive activities of the Brazilian government to open up new sales markets and increase product diversity in existing markets. It is also negotiating regionalisation clauses for its current health certificates

to avoid market closures in the event of outbreaks of Newcastle disease or highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

However, the USDA forecast for the coming year is based on the assumption that Brazil's commercial poultry farms will remain free of HPAI in 2025. Under this condition, the ministry expects annual production of 15.1 million tons of poultry meat in Brazil, about 1% more than expected for 2024 and a new record for the South American country. The drivers of growth are strong foreign demand and declining production costs.

Annex:

- EU market situation poultry, October 2024

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