

## Current situation on the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (Annex)

(01/01) In **Germany**, two outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza were detected in Bavaria over the Christmas holidays in 2024. There was an H5N1 outbreak in turkeys in the municipality of Lehrberg in the district of Ansbach. The approx. 16,000 animals (6th week of life) were culled over the holidays. Corresponding restriction zones were set up. There was also a confirmed case of H5N1 in the district of Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Upper Bavaria. As this was a small holding with 37 animals (35 of 37 animals had already died), no restriction zones were set up.

In Rhineland-Palatinate, the AI virus H5N1 was confirmed in a hobby farm with 46 animals in the Rhineland-Palatinate district on 2 January 2025. The culling of all animals was ordered. Due to the small number of animals, no restricted zones were established.

According to the Animal Disease Information System ([TSIS](#)), there are currently 16 active cases of HPAI in kept animals (as of 8 January 2025). In wild animals, 2 cases are currently categorised as 'active'. Numerous third countries have responded to the HPAI outbreak with trade restrictions. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) summarises these restrictions in an 'HPAI restricted list' for the sake of clarity. Please find attached the latest communication from the BMEL on updating the restricted list.

The following HPAI cases were last confirmed in the **USA**: An outbreak was reported in California on 16 December 2024, affecting 424,700 chickens. In addition, the following outbreaks were reported in California: one outbreak (295,800) was reported on 19 December 2024, three outbreaks (1,105,500, 627,800 and 392,100) on 24 December 2024, one outbreak (181,300) on 31 December 2024 and one outbreak (75,200) on 2 January 2025 on farms with laying hens. The number of animals affected in each case is shown in brackets. An outbreak was also reported in Ohio on 27 December 2024, affecting 931,300 laying hens.

On 23 December 2024, the European Commission published Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/3235 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 the **Czech Republic** (Karlovy Vary Region), **Germany** (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Lower Saxony), **Italy** (Veneto and Lombardy regions), **Hungary** (Békés County) and **Poland** (Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship). In addition, the outbreak confirmed by Hungary is located in the immediate vicinity of the border with **Romania** and the surveillance zone extends into the territory of Romania.

The annex to the decision contains the updated territorial outlines of the protection and surveillance zones as well as the provisional duration of the protection measures.

The recently published Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/3235 amends Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 accordingly. Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/3235 is available at the following link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024D3235>

## First human death in USA after bird flu infection

(01/02) For the first time, a person has died in the USA after being infected with the H5N1 bird flu virus. According to the Louisiana Department of Health, the person in question was over 65 years old and had other health problems.

The person had been in contact with both wild birds and a flock in his garden, the authority said. No further details were given. The authority had already reported in December that this person was the first patient in the USA to become seriously ill as a result of infection with the H5N1 bird flu virus.

### **Amendment to the lists of third countries for imports of poultry commodities from the United Kingdom and the United States**

(01/03) Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for the United Kingdom and the USA in the lists of third countries from which entry into the Union of consignments of poultry, germinal products of poultry and fresh meat and meat products of poultry and wild feathered game is authorised have been amended again in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The corresponding Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3239 was published in the Official Journal L on 23 December 2024.

The **United Kingdom** has notified the Commission of five outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the counties of Norfolk and Yorkshire, England, confirmed by laboratory testing (RT-PCR) between 10 December 2024 and 16 December 2024.

The **United States** has notified the Commission of 17 outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of California (4), Iowa (3), Missouri (1), Nebraska (1), Oklahoma (2) and South Dakota (6) that were confirmed by laboratory analysis (RT-PCR) between 3 December 2024 and 11 December 2024.

With the Implementing Regulation published on 23 December 2024, the EU Commission suspended the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry, germinal products of poultry and fresh meat of poultry and farmed feathered game from the said areas in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 have been amended accordingly to take into account the current disease situation with regard to HPAI in the United Kingdom and the United States. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3239 entered into force on 24 December 2024 and is available at the following link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R3239>

### **Current situation on African swine fever**

(01/04) According to the TierSeuchenInformationsSystem ([TSIS](#)) of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the Friedrich Löffler Institute (FLI), the total number of confirmed cases of African swine fever (ASF) in Germany is currently 6,655 (as at 9 January 2025). In 2024, there were a total of 966 findings in wild animals and 11 findings in livestock. For 2025, there have been 44 confirmed cases in wild animals so far.

The current incidence of infection in Germany in Hesse is concentrated in the Bergstrasse and Darmstadt-Dieburg districts. The last report from Brandenburg was on 23 December 2024, while no ASF cases were reported from Saxony in the last quarter of 2024. If this remains the case over the winter months, there would be hope that the federal state has successfully eliminated the disease.

The Europe-wide outbreak figures for 2025 are still very low, but this could also be due to holiday-related delays in reporting by the respective state authorities. So far, only Germany (44), Latvia (35), Ukraine (2), Estonia and Slovakia (1 each) have reported new outbreaks. According to preliminary figures, the highest outbreak figures in 2024 were reported by Poland (2,100), Italy (1,205), Latvia and Lithuania (914 and 537) as well as Hungary, Serbia and Romania (420, 389 and 371) (as at 17 December 2024).

On 31 December 2024, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3245 amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down specific measures for the control of African swine fever

and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2976 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Germany was published in Official Journal L.

Previously, there had been new outbreaks of African swine fever in feral pigs in Germany, Italy, Poland and Slovakia. In addition, the disease situation in kept pigs and feral pigs has improved in certain areas of Latvia and Poland.

In order to take account of the recent developments in the disease situation with regard to African swine fever in the Union, Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 were amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3245.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3245 is available at the following link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R3245>

### **ASF - Hardly any progress in Poland**

(01/05) According to reports in the Polish media, little progress is currently being made in Poland in the fight against African swine fever (ASF). The platform farmer.pl reported that a total of 44 domestic pig herds were affected by the disease in 2024. The case numbers for 2023 were thus exceeded by 14 and those for 2022 by 30 cases.

In the last three weeks of last year alone, almost 360 outbreaks of ASF in wild boar were confirmed in Poland, affecting a total of almost 500 animals, according to information from the Supreme Veterinary Authority. The disease occurred in twelve voivodeships, most of them in the province of Pomerania. In addition, ASF was detected in wild boar in the voivodeships of Greater Poland, Warmia-Masuria and Kujawsko-Pomorskie, where it occurred for the first time in several municipalities.

According to provisional official figures, a total of 2,265 outbreaks of ASF were detected in wild boar in Poland in 2024. This would be 420 fewer outbreaks than in 2023, although it cannot be ruled out that there will still be adjustments for 2024, as final figures are not yet available. According to the information available so far, ASF occurred in wild boar in 13 voivodeships last year. Only in the provinces of Lodz, Silesia and Lesser Poland were no cases reported.

### **Brazil continues on record course**

(01/06) Exports of Brazilian poultry and pork each set new volume and turnover records in 2024 despite declining business in China. This is shown by statistics recently presented by the Brazilian Animal Protein Association (ABPA).

According to ABPA, Brazil supplied a total of 5.294 million tonnes of fresh and processed poultry meat abroad in the previous calendar year; this was 3.0% more than in 2023 and represented a new record, even though export restrictions were introduced in the meantime due to the outbreak of Newcastle disease. Export revenues increased by 1.3% and reached an all-time high of \$9.928 billion (€9.640 billion).

ABPA reported, that sales of poultry meat from Brazil to China fell by 17% year-on-year to 562,000 tonnes. Nevertheless, China remained the most important customer. In contrast, Brazil was able to deliver more goods to the Middle East and Europe. Exports to the European Union grew by 6.9% to 231,900 tonnes.

ABPA reported also, that Brazilian exports of fresh and processed pork increased by a tenth in volume to a new record of 1.352 million tonnes in 2024. Turnover increased by 7.6% to \$3.033 billion (€2.945 bil-

lion), which is also a new record. There was movement in the ranking of the main customers. The Philippines replaced China in the top position.

According to the ABPA, this was partly due to the fact that the People's Republic reduced its purchasing volume by 38% to 241,000 tonnes. At the same time, the Philippines, where Brazilian companies were granted broader access in 2024, doubled their purchases to 254,300 tonnes. The association is confident about the year 2025 with regard to both poultry and pork exports. There is the possibility of 'new growth'.

The Association of Brazilian Beef Exporters (ABIEC) has only provided figures up to and including November for Brazilian beef exports in the 2024 calendar year. According to these figures, the South Americans sold 2.645 million tonnes of beef on the global market during this period. This exceeded the figures from the comparative periods of all previous years, exceeding those from 2023 by around a quarter. Sales totalled \$11.740 billion (€11.340 billion), almost a quarter higher than in the first eleven months of 2023, but 3.3% lower than in the same period in 2022.

### **Annex:**

- HPAI blacklist, as of 7 January 2025

### **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](mailto:info@epega.org), Internet: <http://www.epega.org>

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