

Updated Outbreak Assessment

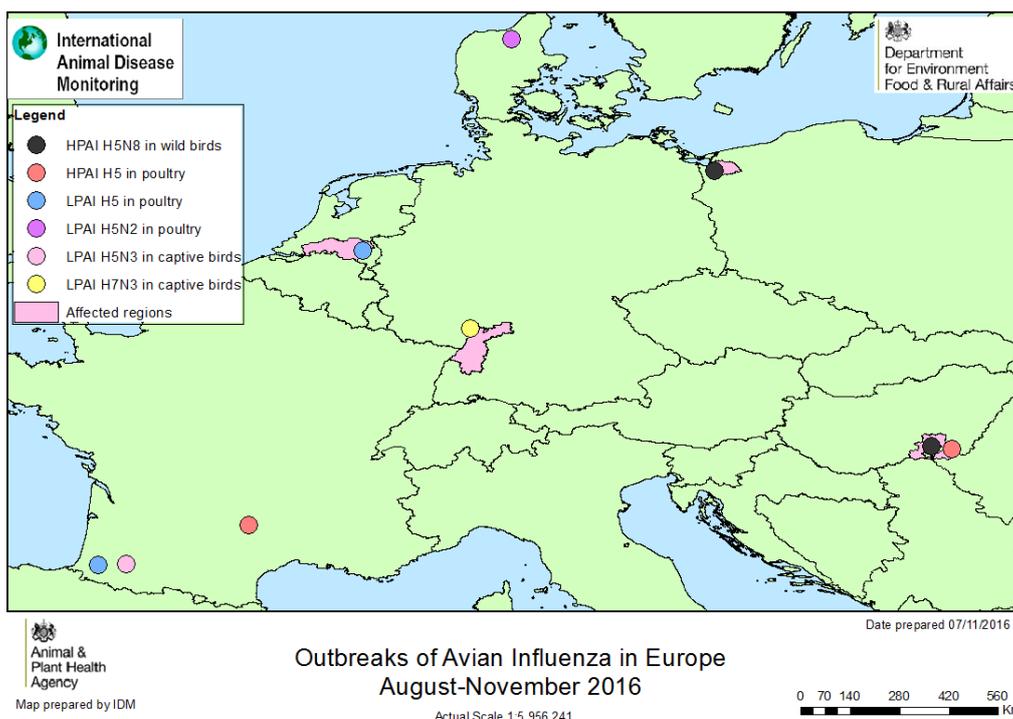
Avian Influenza (H5N8) in Europe

8th November 2016

Ref: VITT/1200 Update 1: HPAI in Europe

Disease Report

The Hungarian authorities have confirmed an outbreak of HPAI H5N8 on a commercial turkey fattening farm in Bekes region. All 10,500 poultry have been culled by 3rd November. Three km protection and 10km surveillance zones have been established in line with Directive 2005/94/EC. The farm is in close proximity to wetlands and the HPAI H5N8 case was reported on the 26th October in a (wild) Mute Swan by a lake was nearby in Csongrad region, a well-known rest place for migratory birds at this time of year (see Defra, 2016). On 5th November, 74 wild birds were found dead at lake Dabie in the Goleniowski region of Poland and HPAI H5N8 was isolated from a pooled samples of 6 of them, consisting of five ducks and a seagull (European Commission, 2016). Controls under Council directive 2005/94 have been implemented.



Situation Assessment

The outbreak in Hungary and the wild bird cases in Poland are indicative of further evidence that this virus is circulating in wild birds and therefore incursions into poultry farms can be expected.

According to TRACES, the EU Electronic Trade Notification System, there has been no recent trade of live poultry, hatching eggs or day old chicks from the affected regions in Hungary or Poland to the UK. Meat and table eggs are lower risk commodities and provided they are not diverted from the human food chain do not represent a risk to poultry.

The Commission has alerted Member States to the increased risk at this time of year and the importance of these findings.

Conclusion

We would like to take the opportunity to highlight the “testing for exclusion” regime in GB. Where avian influenza (or Newcastle Disease) is **not** strongly suspected, a poultry keeper and their private veterinarian now have access to a testing service at the National Reference Laboratory, Weybridge. This will help detect a notifiable avian disease at the earliest opportunity for those cases. It is aimed at those cases where clinical signs cannot exclude NAD in a differential diagnosis and yet do not justify a consultation case or official inquiry. For more information, please see Gibbens *et al.* (2014) and www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/disease-control/nad

At this stage, we consider that as there has been only limited trade with Hungary or Poland in live poultry (including hatching eggs) and none from the affected premises, there is a negligible risk of disease introduction into the UK via this route as a result of these specific outbreaks. Nevertheless we will continue to report on any updates to the situation and in particular any changes in disease distribution or wild bird movements which may increase the risk to the UK.

We would like to remind all poultry keepers to maintain high standards of biosecurity, remain vigilant and report any suspect clinical signs promptly. Poultry keepers should also remind themselves of the mild clinical signs of LPAI infection and be aware of any changes in egg production, feed and water intake or rise in mortality.

Authors

Samuel Wright

Jonathan Smith

Dr David Harris

References

Defra (2016) Avian Influenza (H5 and H7 strains) in Europe
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/565480/poa-ai-europe.pdf

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal & Plant Health Agency
Veterinary & Science Policy Advice Team - International Disease Monitoring

European Commission (2016) HPAI FAX 045/2016 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza of subtype H5N8 in wild Birds in Poland. Received 07/11/2016.

OIE (2016) Immediate Notification Report reference: 2016/02 REF OIE 21457, Report Date: 07/11/2016, Country: Poland

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/temp/reports/en_imm_0000021457_20161108_134203.pdf



© Crown copyright 2016

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

iadm@defra.gsi.gov.uk