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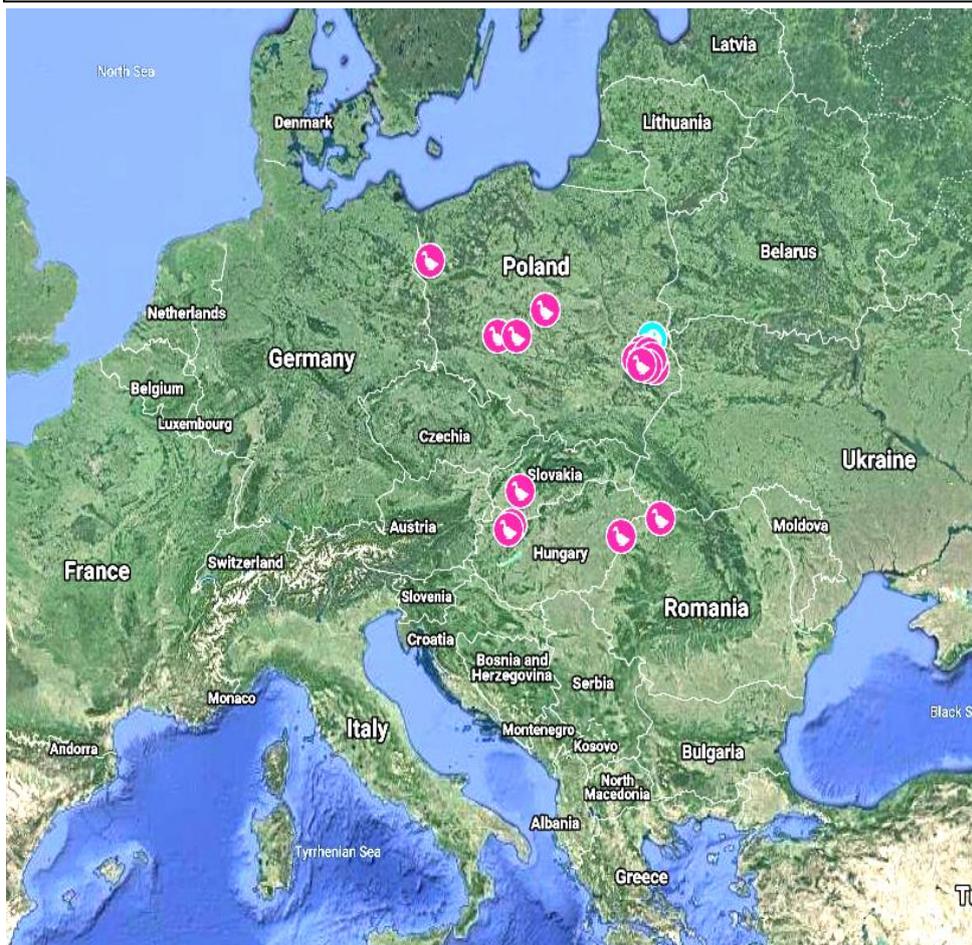
AI Alert: 02/2020

16/01/2020

Further to avian influenza update 01/2020 which was issued on 08 January 2020, further outbreaks of H5N8 have been confirmed in Poland as well as new outbreaks in Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. In addition, the authorities in Northern Ireland have confirmed a case of non notifiable avian influenza (H6N1) in a poultry flock in Co Fermanagh. Full details are provided below.

HPAI H5N8 in Europe

Map showing HPAI H5N8 outbreaks & cases from Dec 2019 to date



-  Poultry outbreaks
-  Wild bird cases

Poland- three new outbreaks

- Authorities in Poland have confirmed three new outbreaks of HPAI H5N8.
- The first was confirmed 10 January on a farm with 22629 turkeys in the Mysliborski region near the German border.
- The second was confirmed on the 13 January in a flock of 5595 commercial geese in the Kolski region in central Poland.
- The third was confirmed on the 15th of January in a flock of 19,594 commercial ducks in the Ostrów Wielkopolski region.
- This brings the number of outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 in Poland since 31 December 2019 to twelve (see map for locations).
- Polish authorities also confirmed a case of HPAI H5N8 in a wild hawk on the 08 January.
- The hawk was found dead on 6 January 2020 in the protection zone established in Lubelskie region following earlier outbreaks in poultry there.

Slovakia- one outbreak in backyard flock

- Slovakian authorities have confirmed an outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in poultry in Zbehy, Nitra in western Slovakia.
- This is the first outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in Slovakia since April 2017.
- The outbreak involved a backyard flock of 22 laying hens.
- All eggs produced were for owners own consumption with no links to commercial flocks.

Hungary- three outbreaks

- Hungarian authorities confirmed an outbreak of HPAI H5N8 on a flock of 53,500, thirteen week old turkeys on the 12 January 2020.
- The flock is located in the Komárom-Esztergom county close to the Slovakian border.
- This was the first outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in Hungary since April 2017.
- 1 of 12 houses had increased mortality and respiratory symptoms.
- On the 14 January a second outbreak of HPAI H5N8 was confirmed in a flock of over 115000 young ducks in the Hajdú-Bihar county.
- Again increased bird mortality was observed in this flock.
- On the 14 January a third outbreak of HPAI H5N8 was confirmed in a flock of 20000 fattening turkeys.
- This flock was located within a 1km radius of the first outbreak in Hungary.
- All birds are being culled and restriction zones have been established.

Romania- one outbreak

- Romanian authorities confirmed an outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in a flock of laying hens in the Seini locality, Maramures county on the 14 January 2020.
- This is the first outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in Romania since April 2017.
- The flock had high mortalities with 11,190 bird deaths out of 18,700.
- Control measures are being implemented including culling of birds on the infected premises.

H6N1 (low pathogenic) in Northern Ireland

- The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland have confirmed a case of non notifiable avian influenza of the H6N1 subtype in a broiler breeder flock in Co Fermanagh.
- The confirmation is on foot of a recent investigation into increased mortalities on the holding in question.
- The farm has been under restriction for the duration of the investigation and the birds were culled as a precaution.
- Low pathogenic H6N1 is less serious than other strains of avian influenza. It is a non notifiable subtype and therefore is not subject to the controls and restrictions set out in EU law (Directive 2005/94/EC, as amended).
- All restrictions have now been lifted.
- The source of infection is believed to be from wild birds.

Advice to flock owners

The NDCC will continue to monitor the situation with avian influenza closely. However the recent spread of H5N8 in Europe and the H6N1 case in Northern Ireland serve as a warning of the constant risk of an avian influenza incursion. Flock owners, including owners of backyard flocks, must remain vigilant especially during the high risk winter period. They should implement strict biosecurity on their premises, particularly by minimising contact with wild birds and ensuring wild birds do not have access to bird feeding areas or feed stores. Flock owners should also monitor their poultry for signs of avian influenza and consult their private veterinarian or their Regional Veterinary Office if they are concerned.

NDCC & Border Inspection Posts Division
16/01/2020

Further information:

DAFM has a wide variety of biosecurity resources for avian influenza- please see: https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/biosecurityadvice

Avian influenza clinical signs:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrols/avianinfluenzabirdflu/informationforthegeneralpublic/AvianInfluenzaLeaflet110117.pdf>

To register a poultry flock please see:

https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/poultryregistration/

RVO contact details

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/contact/>

List of target species of wild birds for AI surveillance

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrols/avianinfluenzabirdflu/informationonwildbirds/ListOfWildBirdSpeciesForTargetedAIsurveillance170118.pdf>

European Commission

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/avian-influenza_en