

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Trader Notice: 43/2014

To: All Poultry Industry Operators

Subject: AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS IN EUROPE AND IN THE UK

As you will be aware, there have been recently confirmed outbreaks of the Highly Pathogenic avian 'flu (HPAI) in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. H5N8 is the causative agent in Germany and the Netherlands. While the disease has not yet been typed in the UK, it has been confirmed as highly pathogenic.

The Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine is liaising closely with counterparts in Germany, Netherlands and the UK as well as with other EU Member States and the European Commission on the measures to be taken in response to the outbreaks. The likely source of the outbreak of the disease in Europe is wild migratory birds, though this has not been confirmed. The Member States concerned have introduced restrictions on the movement of poultry and poultry products from the affected areas. In addition, the EU has already introduced measures, including protection and surveillance zones in relation to Germany, and will take similar action in relation to the Netherlands and the UK shortly. This should help to limit the spread of the disease.

Nonetheless, DAFM urges all poultry establishments to remain vigilant and implement the highest standards of biosecurity arrangements on their premises and on the premises of their suppliers and other relevant locations. In this regard you are directed to the link below on the DAFM website for all information related to avian influenza.

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/

In particular there are 2 booklets most easily accessed via the “*What’s New*” section on:

- **AI control measures &**
- **Biosecurity advice for flock owners**

There is also a list of approved disinfectants.

Further information will issue as appropriate. In the meantime, any suspicions related to the possible arrival of Avian Influenza in Ireland should be reported immediately to your local District Veterinary Office or to the Department's Helpline number on 1890-252-283.

John O'Neill
Meat Hygiene Section
17 November 2014