

Avian Influenza Alert No. 03/2020

28th January 2020

Further to avian influenza update 02/2020 which was issued on 16 January 2020, further outbreaks of H5N8 have been confirmed in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania with new outbreaks in the Czech Republic and Ukraine. Germany had a case in a wild water bird and Slovakia just announced an outbreak in captive birds.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N8 in Europe

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



Poland - six new outbreaks

- Authorities in Poland have confirmed six new outbreaks of HPAI H5N8.
- The first was confirmed on the 16 January on a farm with 6,631 ducks in the Ostrów Wielkopolski region.
- The second was confirmed on the 18 January in a backyard flock of 549 birds (91 laying hens, 41 chicken broiler, 17 geese, 70 ducks, 326 pigeons and 4 parrots) in the western region of Legnicki, Dolnaslaskie. This is approximately 90 km for the German and Czech boarders. • The third was confirmed on the 23rd of January in a commercial flock of 37,563 turkeys in the Szamotuły region.
- The fourth and fifth outbreaks were in the Ostrów Wielkopolski region in backyard flocks of 161 and 165 poultry flocks respectively.
- The sixth outbreak was confirmed on the 26 January in a commercial flock of 22,351 fourteen week old turkeys in the llawski region.
- This brings the number of outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 in Poland since 31 December2019 to 18 (see map for locations).

Romania- one new outbreak

- Romanian authorities confirmed its second outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in a flock of laying hens in the Seini locality, Maramures county on the 17 January 2020 of 23,762 birds, this is a secondary outbreak to the first outbreak 1km away.

Slovakia- new outbreak in backyard flock and first outbreak in captive birds

- Slovakian authorities have confirmed an outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in poultry in Cifer village, Trnava district on the 17 January in a backyard flock of 19 laying hens.
- A captive bird outbreak of 41 wild birds in the national zoo Bojnice was confirmed on the 24 January in Prievidza. This is the first captive bird outbreak.

Hungary- one new outbreak

- Hungarian authorities have confirmed a secondary outbreak in the Komarom-Esztergom county on the 17 January in a commercial flock of 34,000 fattening commercial turkeys.

Czech Republic- first outbreak

- Czech Republic confirmed its first outbreak of H5N8 on 17 January in poultry (ducks and hens).
- It was a backyard holding with 15 birds in the Vysocina region.

Ukraine

- Ukrainian authorities have confirmed its first H5N8 HPAI outbreak in poultry on 19 January in a commercial premises of 98,000 birds in the Vinnytsya region.
- Quarantine has been implemented, stamping-out and other control measures are ongoing

Germany

- Germany confirmed its first case of H5N8 HPAI on 19 January, in a Greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) in the north eastern region of Spree-Neisse, close to the Polish border. This is the first reported case in a wild water bird.

Further information

The number of outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Europe has been steadily increasing in the last few weeks. Ireland is currently in the high risk period for avian influenza and poultry owners are advised to remain vigilant and implement biosecurity measures to mitigate against the threat of the disease.

Important biosecurity measures include:

- Taking measures to prevent direct contact between poultry and wild birds
- Ensuring that good hygiene practices are adhered to in areas where poultry are kept
- Placing feed and water points for poultry under cover away from wild birds
- Ensuring that feed is stored under cover away from wild birds

DAFM has produced several biosecurity leaflets for the prevention of avian influenza. These leaflets in addition to disease updates, industry advice and poultry registration information can be found on the [Avian influenza](#) page of the DAFM website.