

**Update on Avian Influenza 09/2018**  
**02 July 2018**

## **Europe**

In Europe a number of countries have had avian influenza outbreaks and events, involving low pathogenic and highly pathogenic avian influenza subtypes in recent weeks:

### **United Kingdom**

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N6 was detected in two Greylag geese (*Anser anser*) that were found dead in Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland on 22 June 2018.

### **Denmark**

- A low pathogenic avian influenza H5 was detected in a flock of game birds, Mallard ducks (3500 birds), on 26 June 2018. The birds were tested as part of a national surveillance programme, and did not show any signs of disease. The affected birds were killed to prevent the spread of disease, and a 1 km restriction zone has been placed around the holding.

### **Sweden**

- Confirmed low pathogenic avian influenza H5 in a breeding farm (1600 adult pheasants, 7000 chickens) used for game restocking and commercial sales on 23 May 2018. All animals were culled by 30 May 2018.

### **Bulgaria**

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 was confirmed on a poultry farm in Bulgaria on 13 June 2018. The affected premises are surrounded by forest, and close contact with wild birds and biosecurity breaches are thought to be the reason for the incursion.

### **Ireland**

- No case of avian influenza in wild birds since 15 March 2018 (H5N6)
- No outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry during recent epidemics (2016-2018)

### **Advice**

- Although the risk from avian influenza is now low due to the departure of wild migratory waterfowl and increased environmental temperatures and sunlight hours, flock owners including owners of backyard poultry are still advised to implement biosecurity measures – in particular by feeding birds indoors or under cover.
- Specific biosecurity advice can be found here: [https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian\\_influenza/biosecurityadvice/](https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/biosecurityadvice/)
- Flock owners are also reminded to update their flock registration details. On-line registration is now possible. Full details can be found [here](#).

### **Further Reading**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published a scientific report on avian influenza. The report "Avian influenza overview February – May 2018" is available at:

<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5358>

**NDCC & Veterinary International Division**

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