

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: HPAI Outbreak Impacts Northern Kazakhstan

Country: Kazakhstan - Republic of

Post: Nur-Sultan (Astana)

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

On September 17, Kazakhstan announced an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Northern Kazakhstan Province. In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Agriculture implemented internal quarantine measures and a widespread vaccination campaign. To date, the outbreak is believed to have caused the death of hundreds of thousands of poultry in at least nine provinces throughout Kazakhstan.

General Information

On August 4, Kazakhstan's Veterinary Committee imposed restrictions on imports of poultry and products from Chelyabinsk Oblast in Russia due to the discovery of H5N8 there. On September 15, media began reporting high mortality in poultry in North Kazakhstan Province, particularly among backyard flocks. Officials confirmed the outbreak on September 17, imposing quarantine measures including vaccination, disinfection, and a ban on movement of poultry from the province. Additionally, the government announced the availability of compensation for farmers facing losses due to the outbreak. Laboratory tests have subsequently confirmed that Kazakhstan's outbreak is caused by H5N8, the same strain as in Russia's outbreaks. Kazakhstan has notified the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) regarding the outbreak.

As of October 7, government figures recorded 552,273 birds killed in two commercial farms, as well as 24,289 poultry deaths in backyard and personal farms. Mortality due to the virus has been detected in at eight of Kazakhstan's 14 regions, as well as the city of Shymkent, which has the status of a region. One of the largest poultry producers near Nur-Sultan noted that they had successfully vaccinated most of their flocks, but that one facility providing 40 percent of the company's table eggs was affected by HPAI.

Officials have emphasized that poultry products are safe to eat when cooked, and that no restrictions will be placed on poultry within the affected regions that was vaccinated. The Ministry of Agriculture does not expect any shortage of poultry products due to the outbreak. Despite these assurances, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev raised concerns regarding food security in relation to the HPAI outbreak. In comments on October 7 regarding preparations for a potential second wave of COVID-19 infections, Tokayev stressed the importance of food security, and emphasized that farmers would receive compensation for lost birds at market prices. The president also criticized the country's veterinary services for a perceived lack of preparation, and noted that the veterinary service is a key part of Kazakhstan's overall biosecurity system.

Of note, Kazakhstan has recently indicated that it will prioritize expansion and training of both private and public veterinarians as part of its plan to develop its livestock export sector. A World Bank loan announced earlier this year is expected to help fund some of this training.

Attachments:

No Attachments.