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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Bhutan Reports 12th HPAI Outbreak of 2012

Report Categories:

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Poultry and Products

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Kingdom of Bhutan reported its 12th case of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on October 25, 2012. The outbreak was discovered on October 2, 2012 in Rinchending village, which touches the Indian state of Sikkim on the Bhutan-India border. The OIE report lists 29 birds destroyed and another 496 considered susceptible as of October 25, 2012.

General Information:

The Kingdom of Bhutan reported its 12th case of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on October 25, 2012. The outbreak was discovered on October 2, 2012 in Rinchending village, which touches the Indian state of Sikkim on the Bhutan-India border. According to Bhutan's Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF), the outbreak was discovered in a flock of backyard poultry, and was introduced through the "illegal movement/introduction of new live animals." MOAF declined to comment on the suspected provenance of the "new live animals," although given the outbreak's proximity to India, it is possible that the birds came from India's Northeast region, where 7 outbreaks have been reported in 2012. The OIE report lists 29 birds destroyed and another 496 considered susceptible as of October 25, 2012.

MOAF reports that Bhutan is taking measures to contain the spread of avian influenza. Control measures are summarized in Bhutan's "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan" and "Policy Guidelines for the Management of Compensation Fund in the Event of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreak," (see attached). They include quarantine, movement control, clean-up and disinfection of the contaminated premises, and culling.

Table 1. Bhutan: Culling Statistics as of October 25, 2012

	Outbreak Location	Birds Susceptible	Birds Reported Dead	Birds Culled
1	Backyard poultry, Tsimasham Chhukha	2010	87	1923
2	Backyard poultry, Chang Gedaphu, Thimpu	270	38	232
3	Backyard poultry, Mebesa Chhukha	2010	103	1907
4	Backyard poultry, Bunagu, Chhukha	123	35	88
5	Backyard poultry, Dala, Chhukha	136	8	128
6	Backyard poultry, Kamji, Chhukha	96	8	128
7	Backyard poultry, Maybari, Chhukha	290	3	287
8	Backyard poultry, Wangdigashel, Chhukha	652	12	632
9	Backyard poultry, Gedu, Chhukha	231	5	226
10	Backyard poultry, Burkey, Chhukha	1050	1	131
11	Backyard poultry, Yangbari, Mongar	265	70	0
12	Backyard poultry, Rinchending, Chhukha	496	24	29
	Total	7629	394	5711

Source: [OIE Report October 25, 2012](#)

