

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Five Additional AI Outbreaks in Bhutan

Report Categories:

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Poultry and Products

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

On March 2, Bhutan reported five additional outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Bhutan has had nine HPAI outbreaks in 2012. On March 1, Bhutan also reported its fourth outbreak (see GAIN 2029) to the OIE.

General Information:

On March 2, the Kingdom of Bhutan reported five additional outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (See [March 2, OIE Report](#)). All five outbreaks occurred in backyard poultry in the Dala, Kamji, Maybari, Wangdigashel, and Gedu areas of Chukka district. With these five outbreaks, the total number of HPAI outbreaks in Bhutan in 2012 has reached nine. Eight of the nine outbreaks occurred in Chukka district. Samples have been sent to the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory in Bhopal, India for evaluation. Bhutan's Department of Livestock is currently investigating the new outbreaks but has no additional information at this time.

Post previously reported on Bhutan's fourth HPAI outbreak (See GAIN IN 2029). On March 1, this outbreak was reported to the OIE. The details of March 1 notification are available at: [March 1, OIE Report](#).

The government of Bhutan is taking measures to contain spread of avian influenza. These include quarantine, movement control, clean-up and disinfection of the contaminated premises, and culling. Please refer to Bhutan's "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan" and Bhutan's "Policy Guidelines for the Management of Compensation Fund in the Event of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreak" (See GAIN IN 2029) for more information on Bhutan's standard operating procedures in the event of an HPAI outbreak.

Table 1. Bhutan: Culling Statistics as of March 2, 2012

	Outbreak reported in	Birds Susceptible	Birds reported dead	Birds culled
1	Backyard poultry, Tsimasham Chhukha	2,010	87	1,923
2	Backyard poultry, Chang Gedaphu, Thimpu	270	38	232
3	Backyard poultry, Mebesa Chhukha	2,010	103	1,907
4	Backyard poultry, Bunagu, Chhukha	123	35	88
5	Backyard poultry, Dala, Chhukha	136	8	128
6	Backyard poultry, Kamji, Chhukha	96	8	88
7	Backyard poultry, Maybari, Chhukha	290	3	287
8	Backyard poultry, Wangdigashel, Chhukha	652	12	632
9	Backyard poultry, Gedu, Chhukha	231	5	226
	Total	5,818	299	5,511
Source: March 2, 2012 OIE Report				