

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 12/5/2016

GAIN Report Number:

Poland

Post: Warsaw

Outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Poland.

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Approved By:

Russ Nicely, Agricultural Attaché

Prepared By:

Piotr Rucinski, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

On December 3, 2016 there was an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a flock of 600 geese in the free range farm located in the municipality of Deszczno (County Gorzowski, Lubuskie Province) in Western Poland close to the border with Germany. The Polish Veterinary Service notified the OIE and took all necessary steps to avoid further spread of the disease. It is estimated that the outbreak will not have significant impact on Polish exports of poultry meat because almost 90 percent of Polish exports is destined to other EU member states.

General Information:

On December 4, 2016 the Polish Chief Veterinary Officer informed about an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a flock of 600 geese in a free range farm located in the municipality of Deszczno (County Gorzowskie, Lubuskie Province) in Western Poland close to the border with Germany. The outbreak of HPAI of subtype H5N8 was confirmed on December 3, 2016 by the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza at the State Veterinary Institute - National Research Institute in Pulawy. Veterinary Services notified the OIE and implemented in the farm all the procedures required for outbreaks of HPAI in poultry.

The source of infection of birds on the farm in Deszczno has not been determined. Experts do not exclude that migrating wild birds brought the disease. The northern part of the Lubuskie Province is a natural area through annual migrations of many flocks of wild geese, cranes and other species of wild birds take place.

Dr. Jozef Malski, Deputy CVO of Lubuskie Province, informed that the farm holding where the virus was discovered was immediately placed under restrictions. Farms within a radius of 10 kilometers around the infected farm are now under strict supervision of the veterinary service.

On the infected farm all birds were killed and transferred for disposal in compliance with all sanitary requirements. Dr. Malski also said that so far there are no signs of deaths of birds on neighboring farms.

Since 2015 Poland has been the largest producer of poultry in the European Union, exporting almost 30 percent of poultry meat production, mainly within the EU. In 2015 the value of Polish exports of poultry meat amounted to U.S. \$1.35 billion, out of which 88 percent was exported within the EU. The major export destinations outside of the EU are Benin, Hong Kong, China, Congo and Ukraine. Although the H5N8 virus of HPAI is lethal for birds and may cause large scale damage in the Polish poultry industry, it is estimated that the impact of the recent outbreak will not have significant influence on Polish exports because of the EU's policy of regionalization and the small share of poultry meat exported from Poland to outside the EU.

End of the Report.