

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: HPAI Detected on a Commercial Poultry Farm

Country: Netherlands

Post: The Hague

Report Category: Poultry and Products, Pest/Disease Occurrences

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Report Highlights:

After previously identifying highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has confirmed a finding on a commercial poultry farm in Altforst -- about 20 miles south from the main poultry production region in the Netherlands. The birds at this farm will be culled, and transport restrictions are imposed in a radius of roughly six miles around the farm. The Netherlands previously experienced HPAI outbreaks in its commercial flock in 2003, 2014, 2016 and 2017.

General Information

After previously identifying highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in two wild swans,¹ the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality reported a finding of HPAI at a commercial poultry farm in Altforst (in the province of Gelderland). Altforst is located in the center of the Netherlands, roughly 20 miles south of the main poultry production region in the country.

Dutch Government Measures

In response to the detection, the Government imposed a series of protective measures:

- The broiler farm (with an inventory of 35,700 birds) will be culled by the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA). NOTE: There are no other poultry farms within a radius of one kilometer (0.63 mile) of the farm.
- Nine other poultry farms are located within a radius of three kilometers (1.88 miles). These farms will be sampled and tested for the presence of avian influenza.
- 25 poultry farms are located within a radius of ten kilometers (6.25 miles). Within this zone, the transport of poultry, eggs, poultry manure, and litter, as well as other animal products from commercial poultry farms is banned.
- All previously imposed control measures, such as the indoor housing obligations for commercial poultry farms and the prohibition of bird shows, will remain enforced.²
- Zoos, petting zoos, and hobby bird owners are required to shield their poultry and waterfowl so that these animals do not come into contact with wild waterfowl and their droppings (e.g., by keeping the animals in an aviary or by placing them in a run).
- The existing hygiene protocol for visitors to visit commercial poultry farms is being expanded. This means, among other things, that visitors are only allowed to enter the stable or yard after taking strict hygiene measures.
- A ban has been imposed on the display of ornamental poultry and water birds.

For additional information, including maps, see the [official notice](#) (in Dutch) of the Dutch Government. In a [letter](#) (in Dutch) to the Parliament, the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Carola Schouten, stated that it is worrying that HPAI has been found this early in the bird flu season (October – February).

Effect on the Dutch Poultry Sector

While the outbreak of HPAI in commercial poultry flocks, at present, has been limited to one farm, the Dutch government and the Dutch poultry sector are concerned about the possibility of the virus moving to the main poultry meat and egg production region about 20 miles north of the initial commercial finding. The value-added income of the Dutch poultry meat and egg sector is estimated at \$880 million (roughly one million MT) and \$740 million in 2019 (based on figures from Wageningen University and Research), respectively. In 2019, Dutch exports of chicken meat (including preparations) and eggs were

¹ See [NL2020-0051: Netherlands Detects Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Swans](#)

² See [NL2020-0053: Commercial Poultry to be Kept Indoors to Protect Against HPAI](#)

valued at \$3.18 billion and \$1.07 billion, respectively. Exports of these products to third countries were valued at \$370 million and \$160 million, respectively (based on the Trade Data Monitor).

Previous HPAI Outbreaks in the Netherlands

2003

In 2003, the HPAI virus type H7N7 significantly affected commercial poultry production in the Netherlands. The virus was detected at 255 farms. Moreover, 30.7 million birds were culled on 1,094 farms. In 2003, Dutch broiler meat production was cut by roughly 160,000 MT, and due to bans imposed by third countries, exports were cut by almost 45,000 MT annually during six years.

2014

In 2014, HPAI of the type H5N8 was found on five commercial poultry farms in the Netherlands. After instituting timely culling and transport restrictions, further outbreaks were prevented, and the economic impact was only a fraction compared to the outbreaks in 2003 (based on conclusion of the [Bird Flu Evaluation Report](#) (in Dutch)).

2016/2017

In 2016 and 2017, the Netherlands experienced several HPAI (H5N8) outbreaks in commercial poultry flocks (mainly duck farms), which negatively affected Dutch poultry production and exports. In 2017, annual exports to third countries were cut by roughly 20,000 MT, but with only a marginal reduction in export value. The trade impact was mainly caused by the closure of the South African market for frozen broiler cuts. In 2016, the South African market for Dutch frozen chicken cuts totaled 112,000 MT with a value of \$100 million. These cuts were largely re-directed to other markets which had not imposed a ban or were processed, when permissible.³

Attachments:

No Attachments.

³ On September 14, 2020, the Dutch Government reported that the South African market had re-opened for all Dutch poultry meat from birds slaughtered since December 6, 2019.