

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: August 09, 2023

Report Number: PL2023-0023

Report Name: Newcastle Disease Outbreaks on Polish Poultry Farms

Country: Poland

Post: Warsaw

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Pest/Disease Occurrences, Poultry and Products

Prepared By: Anna Galica

Approved By: Heidi Broekemeier

Report Highlights:

In early July 2023, after almost 50 years, the first outbreak of Newcastle Disease was confirmed on a Polish commercial farm keeping hens for slaughter, followed by three other outbreaks in the contact farms. The veterinary authorities implemented all necessary disease control measures, including culling of all birds on the infected farms and designation of restricted areas (3 km and 10 km), as required under the EU and Polish legislation. However, export restrictions were implemented by Ukraine (country-wide export ban) and Belarus (regionalization at the level of Podlaskie province).

Disease occurrence

On July 11, 2023, the first outbreak of Newcastle Disease in hens for slaughter was confirmed in Poland.

According to World Organization on Animal Health, Newcastle Disease (ND) is defined as an infection of poultry caused by Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV), which is an avian paramyxovirus serotype 1 (APMV-1). Poland has been free from ND since 1974.

Outbreak number 1/2023 was found in Białystok district, eastern Podlaskie province, on a commercial farm keeping 43,410 hens for slaughter. The authorities implemented all necessary disease control measures, including culling of all birds on the farm and designation of restricted areas (3km and 10km), as required under the EU and Polish legislation.

As of July 31, 2023, three additional ND outbreaks have been designated in Poland in the contact farms to the outbreak 1/2023. All outbreaks are located in Podlaskie province, in Białystok district.

Outbreak number 2/2023 was found in the village of Bojary, Turośń Kościelna commune, Białystok district, on a commercial farm keeping chicken broilers.

Outbreak number 3/2023 was found in the village of Topilec, commune of Turośń Kościelna, Białystok district, on a commercial farm keeping general-purpose hens.

Outbreak number 4/2023 was found in the village of Bohdan, commune of Dobrzyniewo Duże, Białystok district, on a non-commercial farm keeping general-purpose hens.

In all ND outbreaks, the Polish veterinary authority implemented disease eradication measures and the establishment of control measures, in accordance with procedures under current legislation, including Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687. Restricted areas established around ND outbreaks have been defined based on a local act - Decree No. 7/2023 of the Podlaskie Voivode, dated July 21, 2023, amending Decree No. 5/2023 of the Podlaskie Voivode on the control of Newcastle disease in the Białostockie and Wysokomazowieckie districts.

Export restrictions

Occurrence of the disease might result in export restrictions, analogous to those for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). This means that individual countries decide whether to recognize the regionalization of the disease (at the provincial or district level) and to allow for export from disease-free areas; they could decide to halt poultry imports from the whole country.

Poland is the largest producer of poultry meat in the European Union (EU) and ranks second in the EU in terms of meat exports. It is also the fourth largest poultry exporter in the world. According to the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the domestic poultry sector produced more than 3 million tons of meat in 2022. More than half of this production was destined for export.

Due to an outbreak of ND in Podlaskie province, the Ukrainian authorities, by a decision dated July 13, 2023, imposed a ban on the import of hatching eggs, live poultry and products, and raw materials derived from poultry from the entire territory of Poland, with the exception of products that have been processed by a method that guarantees the destruction of the NDV.

On July 17, 2023, the Polish Chief Veterinary Officer held a video conference with the head of Ukraine's veterinary service regarding the possibility of lifting import restrictions imposed on Poland due to the outbreak of ND. Ukraine said that the condition for lifting the ban is an audit of the poultry disease control and eradication system in Poland.

After analyzing the materials provided by the Polish side, on July 20-21, 2023, an online audit was performed by the Ukrainian experts. Experts from the Chief Veterinary Inspectorate and the Provincial and District Inspectorates in Bialystok, as well as scientists from the State Veterinary Institute - State Research Institute in Puławy, answered questions from the Ukrainian side. Legal regulations concerning, among other factors, the registration of poultry farms and establishments, bio-insurance, virus control, as well as rules for controlling the movement within the EU, and export and transit of poultry and poultry products were discussed. Extensive documentation on the issue was made available and provided at the request of the Ukrainian side.

The results of the audit were discussed on July 31, during the video conference of the heads of the veterinary services of Poland and Ukraine regarding the conditions for recognizing regionalization in an outbreak of ND in Poland. The parties discussed the draft report written by Ukrainian inspectors after the audit and, based on its recommendations, agreed on a plan for further action. The intensive dialogue made it possible to adopt the conclusions of the audit. The conditions for lifting the country-wide ban have not been made publicly available yet.

Ukraine is the second-largest recipient of Polish day-old chicks and other live poultry. According to the Polish Customs Data, as presented by TDM LLC, from January to May 2023, the value of that export increased by 71 percent, compared to the same period of 2022, with Ukraine rebuilding their poultry flocks. Among other traded products, chicken meat products and poultry meat were of the highest value.

Table 1. Polish exports of poultry and poultry products to Ukraine (by value)

HS Code	Description	Calendar Year (Value: \$1,000,000)			January-May		
		2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	%Δ 2023/22
TOTAL	Live poultry and poultry products	54.8	57.8	50.9	19.1	34.2	79.15
160232	prepared or preserved chicken meat, meat offal or blood, n.e.s.o.i.	0.7	0.5	9.8	1.8	19.5	994.63
0207	meat and edible offal of poultry (chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and guineas), fresh, chilled or	31.7	42.5	30.1	12.7	8.1	-36.09

	frozen						
0105	poultry, live; chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and guineas	22.0	14.4	9.9	3.7	6.4	71.28
160231	meat or meat offal of turkeys, prepared or preserved, nesoi	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.9	0.2	-77.68
160239	meat or meat offal of chickens, ducks, geese, and guineas, prepared or preserved, nesoi	0.1	0.1	0.004	0.003	0.035	1071.19

Source: Polish Customs Data, as presented by TDM LLC

Additionally, as of July 21, 2023, in accordance with the decision published on the official website of the Department of Veterinary and Food Surveillance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, import restrictions have been introduced for goods originating from Podlaskie province due to the outbreak of Newcastle disease.

As a result, the following goods from Podlaskie province are banned from entering the Republic of Belarus:

- Live poultry;
- Hatching and consumption eggs;
- Poultry meat, powdered eggs, melange, albumen and other food products of hen egg processing;
- Down and feathers;
- Hunting trophies of wild animals (fowl);
- Feed and feed additives, containing ingredients of animal origin from susceptible animal species (except feed additives and heat-treated prepared feed for cats, dogs, polecats, ferrets, rodents, aquarium and terrarium animals);
- Non-consumable raw materials of animal origin containing ingredients from susceptible animal species and intended for the production of poultry feeds.

However, due to the earlier restriction of exports to Belarus from Poland and the ND-related ban limited to one province (regionalization), it should not have any major impact on Polish trade in poultry and poultry products.

Since January 1, 2022, Belarus has banned imports of products of animal origin, including poultry meat and products, from the EU. The import ban has recently been extended until December 31, 2023, in accordance with Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 412 dated June 27, 2023, on amending Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 700 dated December 6, 2021. Exports of live birds is allowed, but restricted due to the animal health situation.

Table 2. Polish exports of poultry and poultry products to Belarus (by value)

HS Code	Description	Calendar Year (Value: \$1,000,000)			January-May		
		2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	%Δ 2023/22
TOTAL	Live poultry and poultry products	3.6	0.7	2.1	0.8	1.2	61.95
0105	poultry, live; chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and guineas	2.7	0.03	2.1	0.7	1.2	68.79
0207	meat and edible offal of poultry (chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and guineas), fresh, chilled or frozen	0.9	0.6	0.03	0.03	0	-100
160231	meat or meat offal of turkeys, prepared or preserved, nesoi	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Polish Customs Data, as presented by TDM LLC

Attachments:

No Attachments.