

About this dossier

Output on: 2021/02/01 11:23
(Europe/Luxembourg)

Status: closed (submitted)

Created: 2020/03/20 08:34

Last updated: 2020/04/29 12:16

Eradication: Final report for Avian Influenza 2019

For each approved annual or multi-annual programme Member States shall submit to the Commission by the 30 April each year an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred (Art 14 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014).

This form is for information only, no submission possible.

ID: 20200320-O6IEKUKZ

Country code: MT

Reporting period

From: 2019

To: 2019

Year of implementation: 2019

1. Technical implementation of the programme

1.1 Description and evaluation of the evolution of the epidemiological situation, the technical implementation of the activities foreseen under the programme and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.

1. Geographical Background

Malta is an archipelago. There are two main islands which are Malta and the smaller island of Gozo. Malta is approximately 360 Km² being the largest of the two islands. Gozo lies north of Malta and is much smaller, has less than half Malta's surface area. Most of the poultry holdings are on the main island of Malta. There are four slaughterhouses which are situated on the main island of Malta.

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate, Alberttown, Marsa is responsible for the programme. The National Veterinary Laboratory is responsible for testing and dispatch of samples to the CRL.

- Sampling shall take place between January and December 2019. Due to the lack of staff sample were taken from October till December 2019.

The targeted population are layer flocks.

- Samples shall be tested at the National Veterinary Laboratory in Malta using ELISA and any positive samples sent to the CRL for confirmatory testing.

- Any Confirmed positive holdings will be retrospectively investigated by the Veterinary Regulation Department.

here are two Legal notices regulating registration of egg-laying farms.

The Poultry Breeding Stock Regulations LN 50 of 1997 requires that any person breeding any poultry is obliged to hold a licence issued by the CA. The Egg Marking Standard Regulations LN 345/2003 , on the

other hand, require that all eggs sold at retail level, excluding those sold directly to the consumers on farm, have to be marked by a unique identity number. The unique number that is printed on the eggs is correlated with the farms unique registration number. The unique identity mark for eggs is issued by the competent authority, which is the VRD. Therefore all commercial egg-laying farms have to be registered with the CA for such an identity number to be issued. There is only one central CA and there are no regional offices owing to the size of the territory. Each registered farm is given a unique registration number. The registration number is made up of three or four letters and a three digit number. The letters indicate if it is a layer, broiler or mixed farm in Malta or Gozo eg. PLM stands for Poultry layer Malta, PLG - Poultry Layer Gozo while PBLM stands for Poultry Broiler Layer Malta. The licence of the registered farms is renewed annually by the CA. If no rearing was carried out on the farm for a period of 12 months, the licence is not renewed. All data relevant to the licensed egg-laying farms are kept on the National Livestock database of the CA. Details of the individual batch code number, number of different batches of birds, the size and date of hatch of each batch. The batch code number also identifies if the birds were hatched locally or brought in as day-olds or as point of lay pullets. The VRD is the CA and hatcheries are legally obliged to report the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The competent authority then prints out a "hatch report" which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold with the details of all the farms, which are the destination of chicks sold.

There is no central egg-packing plant. The farmers can either sell the eggs produced directly to shops, supermarkets or egg-collectors, who in turn would deliver to shops / supermarkets. All farmers pack their own egg produce. The majority pack the eggs manually, only a few producers have automation for grading, stamping and packing.

Layer farms are registered in terms of the Egg Marketing Standard Regulations LN 345 of 2003 under Chapter 427 -The Product Safety Act . In accordance to this law each individual egg-laying farm is given a unique identity number that has to be printed on all the eggs produced on that farm and sold to shops, supermarkets or egg-collectors. This legislation excludes eggs sold directly to the consumer. The CA is responsible for issuing the unique identity number. Egg laying farms are therefore registered with the CA, whereby a unique registration number is given to the farm, following registration then the unique marking number for the eggs is issued.

Control at retail level falls under a different Ministry, the Ministry of Health.

Until 2010, operators were requested to send in monthly reports to the CA-Animal Health and Welfare Unit . One of the reports involves details that include the daily production of eggs, number of live birds, number of deaths and quantity of feed consumed. The second report is a sales report where the farmer is declaring the quantity of eggs sold supported by fiscal receipts. Since 2011, all registered holdings have been given an official register with all the data requested as described above which has to be filled in by the operator. The register will be replaced every three years.

In 2019 26 were sampled of of these were located in Gozo. The total number of layer in Malta was 28. Number of layers in 2019 is 518,532 the total number includes the number of end of lay layers and the layers that replaced these however were all present during the year 2019 from 1/1/19-31/12/19.

STRUCTURE OF LAYER FARMS:

To date, there is one free-range farms, two farms with only barns and two farms with barns and cages and all the other birds are kept in cages on more than one tier, usually up to a maximum of five tiers. All cage houses have manure belts.

The majority of farms operate on a first -in, first-out basis. Malta has a constant problem of space, so it is uncommon to find large houses. The vast majority of holdings are made up of a number of houses having small capacities. The houses are usually in close proximity of one another. The birds kept in one house are considered as an individual epidemiological unit in accordance to the Regulation.

NUMBER OF FLOCKS:

The number of houses that are used may vary slightly. In 2019 there were 28 holdings, taking in account the different houses.

Broilers

Malta and the smaller sister Island of Gozo are considered as one region for the surveillance and control of disease. The Competent Authority responsible for the Salmonella Control Programme at farm level, feed level, primary production and manufacturing level excluding retail, falls under the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) under Veterinary and Phytosanitary Department within Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

Registration of Farms:

There are no breeding flocks of Broilers in Malta at present.

Broiler farms are registered with the CA. The operators book the number of birds or day-olds for the next

rearing from the hatcheries who import hatching eggs and day-olds. The farmers do not import any day-olds for themselves but all book through the hatcheries. There is no association of poultry breeders and the industry is made up of a quite a number of small farms, all operating individually.

Hatcheries:

There is 1 registered hatcheries on the Island of Malta and he is responsible for supplying the vast majority of farms and also imports day-olds for the farms.

Hatching Regulations LN48 of 1997 lays down the provisions that regulate the national hatchery establishments.

Hatching eggs are imported from EU member states, primarily from France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium. All consignments are imported with the official Intra Trade Certificate issued according to Council Directive 539/90.

The hatcheries are legally obliged to the report to the VRD, as competent authority, the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The Animal Health Unit authority then prints out a "hatch report" which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold. This hatch report includes a list of farms which are the destination of chicks sold. From this documentation, staff at the Animal Health section record all relevant data on the National Livestock database (Intratrace).

A movement document is issued by the competent authority and given to the farmer. This document follows the flock up to the slaughterhouse, where the slaughterhouse fills in the number of birds slaughtered. The movement document is then returned to the CA. A new movement document for a new batch of birds is only issued after a three-week resting period between rearing of different batches.

1.2 Details on the level of achievement of the targets set in the approved programme and technical difficulties.

Achievement of the targets: no positive flocks were found.

Technical difficulties: delays in receiving the sampling sheet for the sampling, for this reason VRD started to perform the sampling in November 2019 and delays in receiving the results from the NVL. We started the AI sampling in October due to the lack of staff. 208 total samples, average 8 samples per farm due to risk assessment on farm.

1.3 Epidemiological maps for infection and other relevant data on the disease/activities (information on serotypes involved,...) (Please attach files of data using the PDF attachment feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.

The sampling and test performed were 208 samples equivalent to 418 tests since done in duplicate and 20 tests for duplicate positive and negative controls. These are equivalent to the use of 5 ELISA plates. In 2019 no positive flocks were found.

2. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

VERY IMPORTANT: Please fill out the following tables with figures corresponding to measures performed during the implementing period (1/1 to 31/12).

In the column "Total number of samples taken", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI-H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted).

Table A - POULTRY HOLDINGS SAMPLED : SEROLOGICAL INVESTIGATION ACCORDING TO ANNEX I TO COMMISSION DECISION 2010/367/EU

Poultry category	NUTS2 Code	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples taken	Methods of laboratory analysis	Total number of tests performed per method
Laying hens	35.9375° N, 14.3754° E	28	26	8	208	ELISA test	438
Total		28	26	8	208	Methods of laboratory analysis	Total number of tests
						Total - ELISA test	438

Table B - WILD BIRDS : INVESTIGATION ACCORDING TO THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA IN WILD BIRDS SET OUT IN ANNEX II TO DECISION 2010/367/EU

NUTS 2 Code	Total number of wild birds sampled for passive surveillance	Number of PCR tests done for passive surveillance	Number of virus isolation tests for passive surveillance
Total	0	0	0

Table C - POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS : NUMBER OF OUTBREAKS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA DETECTED DURING THE YEAR

	Domestic birds	Wild birds
Nr of HPAI outbreaks	0	0
Nr of LPAI outbreaks	0	0

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

1.9.1 SANTE Data Collection Platform - PRODUCTION • Contact us at SANTE-XMLGATE3@ec.europa.eu