

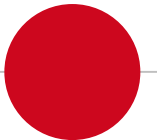
Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in Italy: epidemiological update

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Castle Disease*

SCoPAFF AHW

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HPAI H5N1 in Italy

- HPAI in wild birds
 - **2** hunted birds in Lombardy
 - Eurasian wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)
 - Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- HPAI in domestic poultry (14/11/2021)
 - **41** in Veneto
 - **1** in Lazio



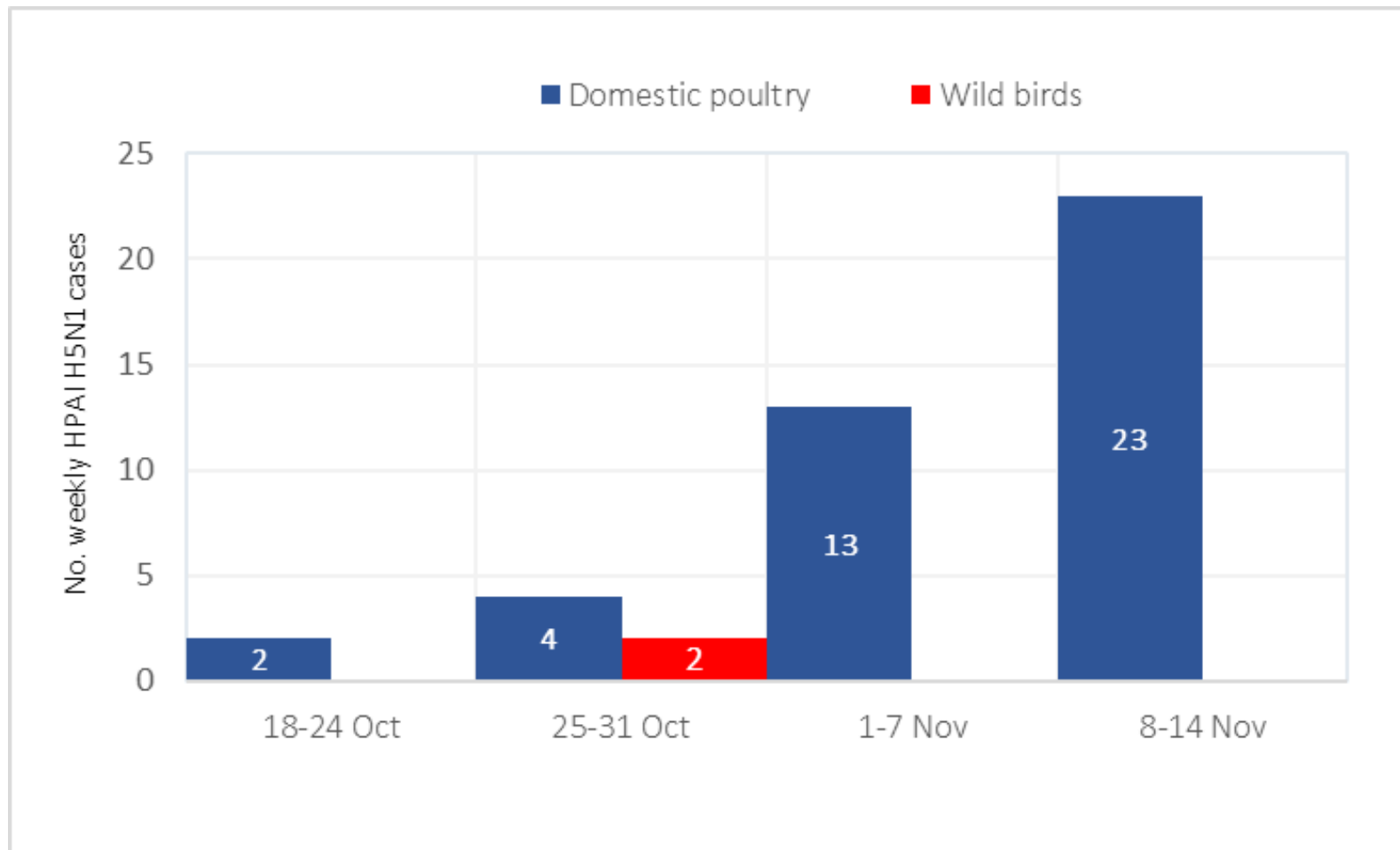
● HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry: distribution and type of affected farms

REGION	Meat turkey	Broiler	Laying hen	Quail	Mixed*	Rural**	Total
<i>Veneto</i>	29	6	2	2	1	1	41
<i>Lazio</i>						1	1
Total	29	6	2	2	1	2	42

*duck and guinea fowl

**rural (backyard, agrotourism)

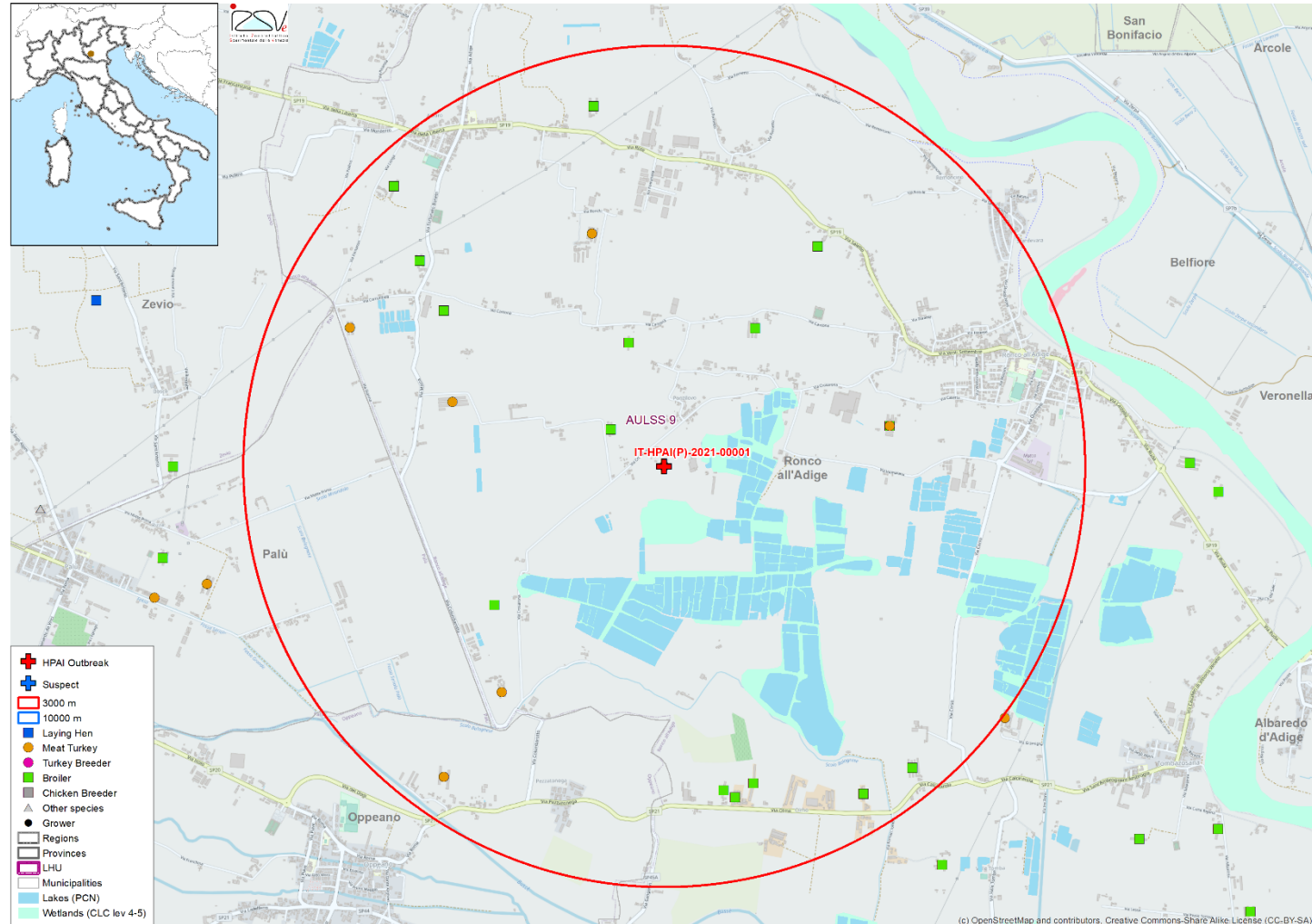
● Number of weekly HPAI H5N1 cases



1st outbreaks domestic poultry: risk factors for virus introduction

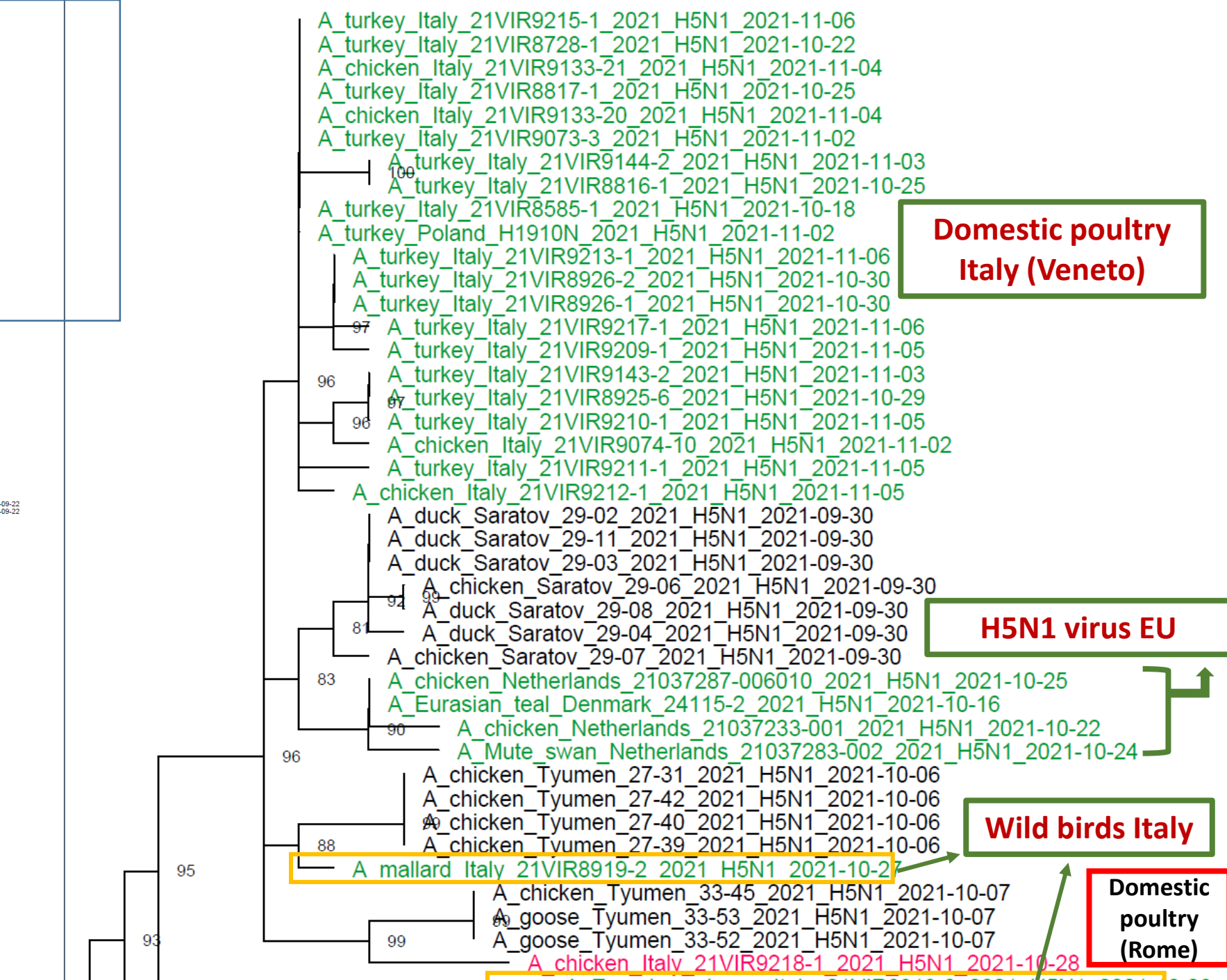
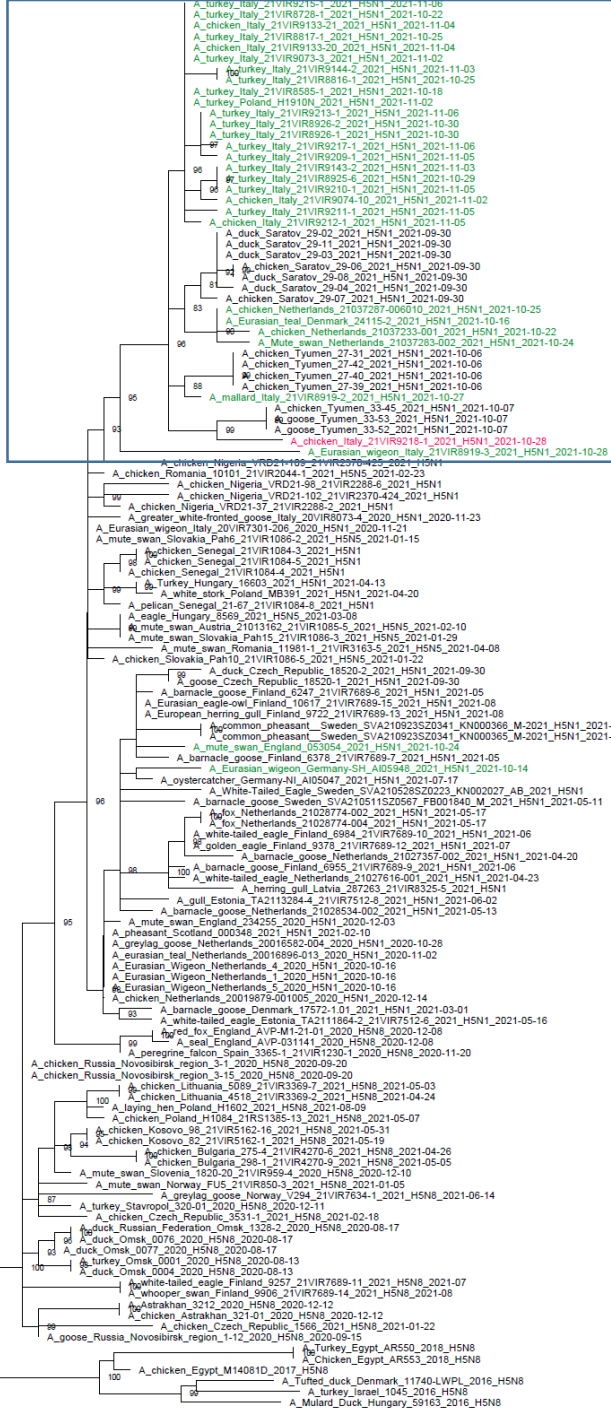
Region	Province	Production type	No. animals	Age	Confirmation date	Depopulation date
Veneto	Verona	Meat turkey	12907	~ 12 weeks	19/10/2021	21/10/2021

- No at-risk contacts in the 21 days prior onset of symptoms
- High biosecurity practices
- No suspected or confirmed HPAI cases in wild birds/domestic poultry since April 2021
- Located less than 500 m from a hunting area
- Waterfowl reported



● Risk factors for virus spread in Veneto region

- High concentrations of susceptible poultry production types (e.g. fattening turkeys) in a limited geographic area (DPPA)
- Areas widely frequented by migratory waterfowl
 - Proximity to hunting areas or wetlands
- Veneto strong vocation for agriculture
- 61% of the outbreaks belong to the same poultry company (25/41)
 - Contact tracking activities:
 - Company veterinarian/technician
 - Feed lorries
 - Other visitors (e.g. owner's relatives, etc)
 - Proximity to infected premises (within 1,500 m)



**Domestic poultry
Italy (Veneto)**

H5N1 virus EU

Wild birds Italy

**Domestic
poultry
(Rome)**

A mallard Italy 21VIR8919-2 2021 H5N1 2021-10-2

A chicken Italy 21VIR9218-1 2021 H5N1 2021-10-28

A Eurasian wigeon Italy 21VIR8919-3 2021 H5N1 2021-10-28

● Measures in force to mitigate the risk of introduction and spread

- **18/08/2021 (Ministerial provision):**

- Using live decoy birds belonging to the Orders Anseriformes and Charadriiformes for hunting is allowed provided an accurate risk assessment and regular testing of birds and investigation of any clinical sign/health parameters

- **15/10/2021 (Ministerial provision):**

- Strengthening biosecurity measures (other than poultry confinement)
- Housing order for poultry in high risk areas
- Early detection of HPAI in poultry (*any change in normal production and health parameters such as mortality rate, feed and water intake and egg production*)
- Early detection of HPAI in wild birds (passive surveillance activities)
- Increasing awareness of the stakeholders and the general public

- **22/10/2021 (Ministerial provision):**

- Using live decoy birds belonging to the Orders Anseriformes and Charadriiformes for hunting is suspended
- The release of poultry intended for restocking wild game is suspended (with derogations)
- Enhanced surveillance during fairs, bird exhibitions and any other gatherings of poultry or other captive birds

Measures in force to mitigate the risk of introduction and spread

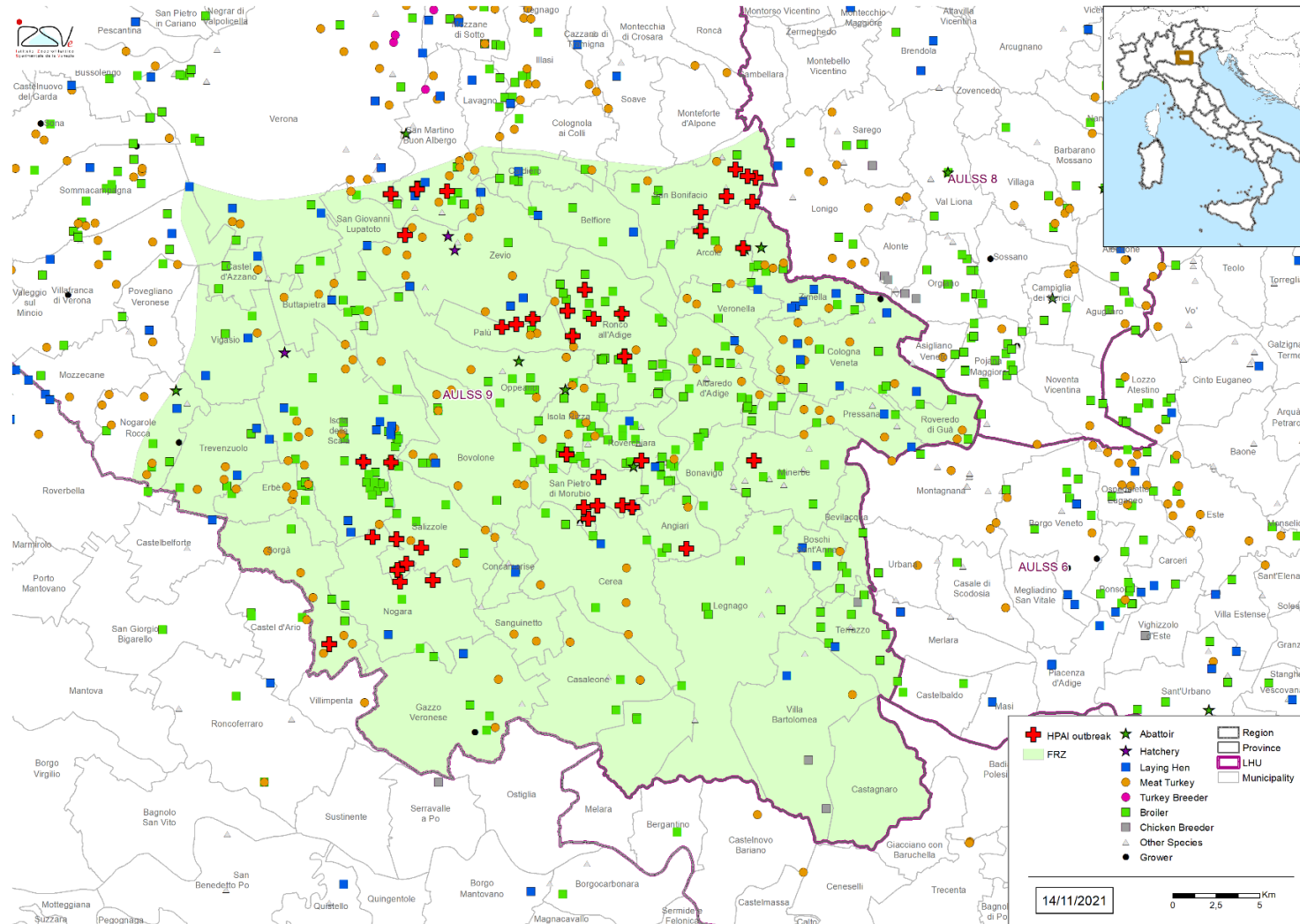
as provided by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687

- Culling, disposal of carcasses, cleaning and disinfection procedures
 - Establishment of protection and surveillance zones (3 and 10 km)
 - Restrictions on movements of poultry and poultry products (with derogations)
 - Epidemiological investigation
 - Preventive culling in at-risk contact farms/Pre-emptive culling in meat turkey farms in protection zone
-
- At holding level **poultry companies** applied enhanced biosecurity measures
 - Increasing awareness of the evolving epidemiological situation
 - Movements of people (including company technicians and veterinarians) are blocked
 - Farm activities: raking litter must be drastically reduced or stopped
 - Agriculture practices: mowing/ploughing should be suspended in fields close to the poultry holding



Control measures – Establishment of a Further Restricted Zone (FRZ)

A FRZ has been established (Ministerial provision n°25660 of 5 November) and will be amended according to the evolving epidemiological situation



● Measures applied within the Further Restricted Zone

- Census of industrial poultry holdings
- Birds shall be kept inside closed buildings and measures should be taken to reduce the risk of direct/indirect contacts with wild birds
- Pre-movement clinical inspection and virological testing
- Meat turkey older than 50 days will be tested by tracheal swabs 1/week
- Laying hen/pullet will be tested by tracheal swabs every 21 days
- Enforcement of increased biosecurity measures (vehicles, personnel, etc.)
- Gathering of domestic birds for fairs, exhibitions and live-bird markets are banned
- Release of game for hunting is prohibited
- Poultry companies must ensure that there is a functional separation of activities, personnel and facilities between at-risk regions;
- Re-stocking of meat turkey farms is prohibited
 - A derogation can be authorised, following verification of compliance with biosecurity standards, and evaluation of geographical risk (according to the location of the farm within densely populated poultry areas)

Thanks for your attention

SCoPAFF 16/11/2021

