Eradication: Final report for Avian Influenza 2018

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.

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Country code: BE

Reporting period

From: 2018 **To:** 2018 **Year of implementation:** 2018

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) Sampling of domestic poultry

The sampling scheme for the survey in domestic poultry is based on the guidelines of the document SANCO/10268/2006 revision 5, Decision 2010/367/CE and a risk analysis performed by the national reference laboratory and its epidemiological unit. The sampling is split up by province (NUTS 2 code). Only registered poultry holdings are sampled (according to Belgian legislation, a poultry premise must be registered by its holder if at one time during the year more than 200 poultry are present).

Sampling is performed according to the principles laid out in the programme, either by veterinarians of the Belgian Food agency in the case of ducks, geese, turkeys, laying hens, game fowl, guinea fowl and pigeons, or by technicians and veterinarians of the regional animal health laboratories in the case of breeder chickens. Holdings empty at the time of the sampling or holdings keeping poultry under 13 weeks of age (the minimal age to be sampled) are excluded.

The samples consists in:
- in the case of ducks and geese: 20 blood samples per holding/flock.
- in the case of other poultry: 10 blood samples per holding/flock.

When distinct flocks are present on a holding, each flock is sampled separately and the number of samples is adjusted accordingly.

In case of unfavourable serological results, additional sampling of the holding is performed, consisting in a further samples of 60 animals for analysis with RT-PCR and/or virus isolation assays and possibly with ELISA and/or haemagglutinin inhibition assays.

2) Sampling of wild birds

As described in the programme, the sampling of wild birds consists both in passive and active surveillance.

Regarding the passive monitoring, not only dead birds meeting certain criteria and thus regarded as suspicious are analyzed, but also wild birds sheltered by bird refuges and dying there. The carcasses of the dead animals are sent to the national reference laboratory, either by the regional authority examining the suspicion or the bird refuge collecting the sick or moribund birds.

Regarding the active monitoring, live birds caught at ringing activities by ornithologists are swabbed (cloaca and/or pharynx).

3) Analysis

All samples are analyzed at the AI national reference laboratory.

Blood samples of domestic poultry are analyzed using either the ELISA or the haemagglutinin inhibition assay for H5 and H7. Since the ELISA is only validated for use in chicken, turkeys, ducks and geese, blood samples of other species are analyzed using the haemagglutinin inhibition (HI) assay, following the procedures described by the European legislation and based on strains supplied by the community reference lab. The haemagglutinin inhibition assay is also used as a confirmatory assay in case of an unfavorable or undecided ELISA.

All carcasses of dead wild birds are autopsied to detect post mortem indications of an AI infection and to collect the necessary tissue samples for analysis. The tissue samples are analyzed for virus presence using molecular detection (RT-PCR) and/or virus isolation. All cloacal or oropharyngeal swabs from live wild birds are analyzed using molecular detection (RT-PCR) and/or virus isolation.

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

1) Results of the survey in poultry

The results of all sampling performed in 2018 are summarized in this report and were registered in the central database of the Commission using the prescribed web interface.

In 2018, 7,219 birds on 698 poultry holdings were sampled, resulting in 6,897 ELISA and 1,206 haemagglutinin inhibition assays (659 first line double assays and 547 confirmatory assays following an undecided or unfavorable ELISA results) performed.

In 4 holdings with ducks, animals were tested positive for H5 with the haemagglutinin inhibition assay. Further samples of 60 animals in 3 of these holdings were analyzed, resulting in an additional 38 RT-PCR pools and one virus isolation assay, but no virus could be demonstrated.

2) Results of the survey in wild birds

The results are summarized in this report and were registered in the central database of the Commission using the prescribed web interface.

Regarding the passive surveillance, a total of 237 wild birds were collected and analyzed. In each case, a RT-PCR was performed. All results were negative.

Regarding the active surveillance, a total of 1,290 birds were sampled and analyzed with RT-PCR. In addition, virus isolation assays were performed on 167 birds to confirm an undecided or unfavorable RT-PCR. LPAI virus could be demonstrated in 67 birds. When virus could be isolated, birds were found infected with LPAI viruses of the types H1, H2, H3, H4, H10 and H11.

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 attachement feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.

See also point 1.2 for results on serotypes involved: wild birds were found infected with LPAI viruses of the types H1, H2, H3, H4, H10 and H11.

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
Chicken Breeders	21	61	59	10	590	ELISA test	590
Chicken Breeders	21	61	59	10	0	HI test for H5	5
Chicken Breeders	21	61	59	10	0	HI test for H7	4
Chicken Breeders	22	9	9	10	90	ELISA test	90
Chicken Breeders	22	9	9	10	0	HI test for H5	2
Chicken Breeders	22	9	9	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Chicken Breeders	23	32	28	10	280	ELISA test	280
Chicken Breeders	23	32	28	10	0	HI test for H5	2
Chicken Breeders	23	32	28	10	0	HI test for H7	2
Chicken Breeders	25	80	75	10	750	ELISA test	750
Chicken Breeders	25	80	75	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Chicken Breeders	25	80	75	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Chicken Breeders	32	10	7	10	70	ELISA test	70
Chicken Breeders	32	10	7	10	0	HI test for H5	2
Chicken Breeders	32	10	7	10	0	HI test for H7	2
Chicken Breeders	33	5	8	10	80	ELISA test	80
Chicken Breeders	35	2	1	10	10	ELISA test	10
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	21	1	1	10	10	HI test for H5	10
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	21	1	1	10	0	HI test for H7	10
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	22	4	7	10	70	HI test for H5	110
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	22	4	7	10	0	HI test for H7	70
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	23	4	5	10	50	HI test for H5	50
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	23	4	5	10	0	HI test for H7	50
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	24	1	1	10	10	HI test for H5	10
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	24	1	1	10	0	HI test for H7	10
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	25	5	5	10	50	HI test for H5	60
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	25	5	5	10	0	HI test for H7	50
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	32	3	50	10	50	HI test for H5	100
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	32	3	5	10	0	HI test for H7	50
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	33	1	1	10	10	HI test for H5	10
Farmed game birds	33	1	1	10	0	HI test for H7	10

(gallinaceous)							
Fattening ducks	21	2	1	20	20	ELISA test	20
Fattening ducks	21	2	1	20	0	HI test for H5	28
Fattening ducks	21	2	1	20	0	HI test for H7	14
Fattening ducks	22	2	3	20	60	ELISA test	60
Fattening ducks	22	2	3	20	0	HI test for H5	20
Fattening ducks	22	2	3	20	0	HI test for H7	10
Fattening ducks	23	5	1	59	59	ELISA test	59
Fattening ducks	23	5	1	59	0	HI test for H5	28
Fattening ducks	23	5	1	59	0	HI test for H7	14
Fattening ducks	23	5	1	60	60	PCR test	12
Fattening ducks	25	4	6	20	120	ELISA test	120
Fattening ducks	25	4	6	20	0	HI test for H5	116
Fattening ducks	25	4	6	20	0	HI test for H7	58
Fattening ducks	25	4	2	60	120	PCR test	26
Fattening ducks	25	4	1	60	0	Virus isolation test	1
Fattening ducks	32	4	4	20	80	ELISA test	40
Fattening ducks	32	4	4	20	0	HI test for H5	80
Fattening ducks	32	4	4	20	0	HI test for H7	40
Fattening ducks	33	2	1	20	20	ELISA test	20
Fattening ducks	35	4	4	20	80	ELISA test	80
Fattening ducks	35	4	4	20	0	HI test for H5	17
Fattening ducks	35	4	4	20	0	HI test for H7	17
Fattening Turkeys	21	1	2	10	20	ELISA test	20
Fattening Turkeys	23	7	3	10	30	ELISA test	30
Fattening Turkeys	25	28	43	10	430	ELISA test	430
Fattening Turkeys	25	28	43	10	0	HI test for H5	3
Fattening Turkeys	25	28	43	10	0	HI test for H7	2
Fattening Turkeys	33	2	1	10	10	ELISA test	10
Free Range Laying Hens	21	14	37	10	370	ELISA test	370
Free Range Laying Hens	21	14	37	10	0	HI test for H5	3
Free Range Laying Hens	21	14	37	10	0	HI test for H7	2
Free Range Laying Hens	22	8	16	10	160	ELISA test	160
Free Range Laying Hens	23	7	21	10	210	ELISA test	210
Free Range Laying Hens	23	7	21	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Free Range Laying Hens	23	7	21	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Free Range Laying Hens	24	4	5	10	50	ELISA test	50
Free Range Laying Hens	25	14	32	10	320	ELISA test	320
Free Range Laying Hens	25	14	32	10	0	HI test for H5	11
Free Range Laying Hens	25	10	32	10	0	HI test for H7	9
Free Range Laying Hens	31	1	2	10	20	ELISA test	20
Free Range Laying Hens	32	13	25	10	250	ELISA test	250
Free Range Laying Hens	32	13	25	10	0	HI test for H5	3
Free Range Laying Hens	32	13	25	10	0	HI test for H7	3
Free Range Laying Hens	33	7	12	10	120	ELISA test	120
Free Range Laying Hens	33	7	12	10	0	HI test for H5	3
Free Range Laying Hens	33	7	12	10	0	HI test for H7	2
Free Range Laying Hens	34	9	18	10	180	ELISA test	180
Free Range Laying Hens	34	9	18	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Free Range Laying Hens	34	9	18	10	0	HI test for H7	1

Free Range Laying Hens	35	20	37	10	370	ELISA test	370
Free Range Laying Hens	35	20	37	10	0	HI test for H5	3
Free Range Laying Hens	35	20	37	10	0	HI test for H7	2
Laying Hens	21	39	61	10	610	ELISA test	610
Laying Hens	21	39	61	10	0	HI test for H5	9
Laying Hens	21	39	61	10	0	HI test for H7	6
Laying Hens	22	19	30	10	300	ELISA test	300
Laying Hens	22	19	30	10	0	HI test for H5	2
Laying Hens	22	19	30	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Laying Hens	23	22	25	10	250	ELISA test	250
Laying Hens	23	22	25	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Laying Hens	23	22	25	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Laying Hens	24	2	2	10	20	ELISA test	20
Laying Hens	25	41	70	10	700	ELISA test	698
Laying Hens	25	41	70	10	0	HI test for H5	6
Laying Hens	25	41	70	10	0	HI test for H7	4
Laying Hens	31	2	2	10	20	ELISA test	20
Laying Hens	32	3	4	10	40	ELISA test	40
Laying Hens	33	9	8	10	80	ELISA test	80
Laying Hens	33	9	8	10	0	HI test for H5	2
Laying Hens	33	9	8	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Laying Hens	34	3	4	10	40	ELISA test	40
Laying Hens	35	4	3	10	30	ELISA test	30
Other: Guinea Fowl	25	4	1	10	10	HI test for H5	10
Other: Guinea Fowl	25	4	1	10	0	HI test for H7	10
Other: Pigeon	21	1	1	10	10	HI test for H5	10
Other: Pigeon	21	1	1	10	0	HI test for H7	9
Other: Pigeon	33	3	1	10	10	HI test for H5	10
Other: Pigeon	33	3	1	10	0	HI test for H7	10
Total		1,474	2,007	1,547	7,399	**Methods of laboratory analysis**	**Total number of tests**
						Total - ELISA test	6,897
						Total - HI test for H5	729
						Total - HI test for H7	477
						Total - PCR test	38
						Total - Virus isolation test	1

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
see data in EU database	237	237	0
Total	237	237	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

No additional comments.