



*Ministero della Salute*

# HPAI outbreaks in Italy

**Directorate General for Animal Health and veterinary medicinal products**



# HPAI H5N1 in Italy

✓ 32 HPAI outbreaks in poultry (17/03/2023)

- 20 Veneto
- 7 Lombardia
- 4 Emilia Romagna
- 1 Friuli Venezia-Giulia **+ 2**

✓ 166 HPAI outbreaks in wild birds (21/03/2023)

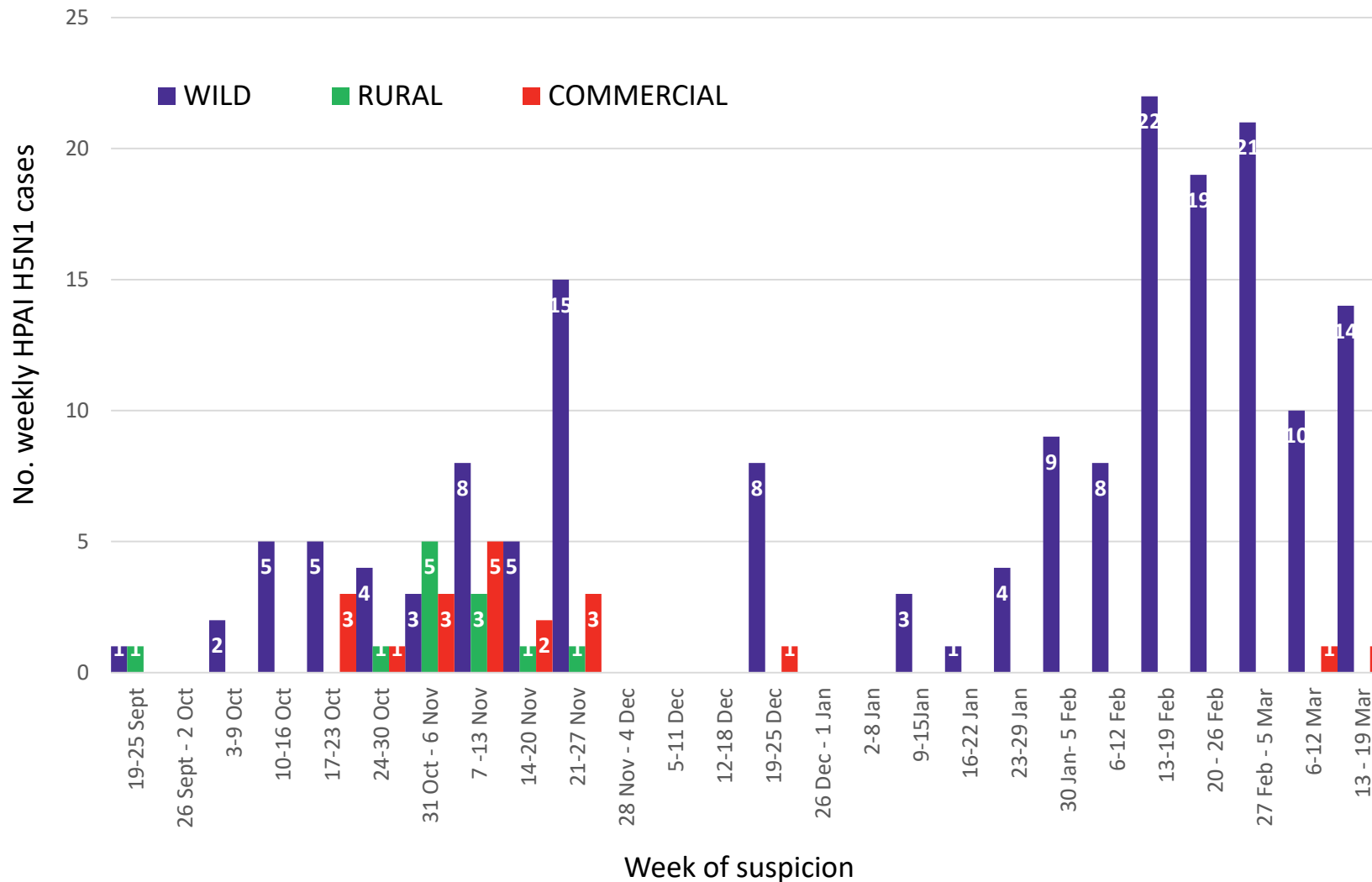
- 59 Veneto
- 50 Lombardia
- 35 Emilia Romagna
- 10 Friuli – Venezia Giulia
- 8 Trentino - Alto Adige
- 2 Sardegna
- 2 Umbria



# Number of weekly HPAI H5N1 cases in poultry and wild birds

Since the end of December, epidemiological situation is stable, with only **two** outbreak confirmed in **commercial farm** in March

A notable **increase** of cases in **wild birds**, particularly in **gulls**, was observed since January



# HPAI H5N1 in poultry: distribution and type of affected farms

	Province	Breeders	Broiler	Backyard/Multispecies	Laying hen	Meat turkey	Total
EMILIA- ROMAGNA	<i>Ferrara</i>			1	1		4
	<i>Forlì -Cesena</i>					1	
	<i>Modena</i>			1			
FRIULI VENEZIA-GIULIA	<i>Pordenone</i>			1			1
LOMBARDIA	<i>Brescia</i>					1	7
	<i>Cremona</i>	2			2		
	<i>Mantova</i>					1	
	<i>Pavia</i>			1			
VENETO	<i>Padova</i>			1			20
	<i>Rovigo</i>		1	1	1		
	<i>Treviso</i>			5	1		
	<i>Venezia</i>			1			
	<i>Verona</i>	1	1			7	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>

# March 2023 – Fattening turkeys outbreaks

Region	Province	Production type	No. animals	Age	Suspicion date	Confirmation date
Veneto	Verona	Meat turkey	~ 40.000	140 days	06-03-2023	07-03-2023
Emilia - Romagna	Forlì Cesena	Meat turkey	~ 22.000	134 days	15-03-2023	16-03-2023

## VENETO

- Laboratory confirmation during pre-movement testing without showing increased mortality or clinical signs
- H5N1 virus belonging to the group of viruses sequenced from gulls found positive in the same province since January 2023
- Monitoring of at-risk contact farms and poultry holdings within the protection and surveillance zones: NEG

## EMILIA - ROMAGNA

- Laboratory confirmation after sampling under the monitoring plan foreseen in this productive category by Ministerial Provision
- No increased mortality or clinical signs
- Virus genetic characterization is ongoing



# HA phylogenetic tree





Clade 2.3.4.4b



From the phylogenetic analysis it is confirmed that the virus responsible for the outbreak in meat turkeys in the province of Verona (in red) derives from wild birds, being the level of similarity of the turkey virus with those found in gulls in Italy (shown in black in the box) of 99.8-99.9%

# One Health approach

- 27 February General Directorate for Animal Health and veterinary Medicines and General Directorate for Human Health Prevention called a meeting with the Group of experts designed within the *National Strategic Operational Plan for Preparedness and Response to a Flu Pandemic 2021- 2023*  

- Risk analysis on zoonotic risk of HPAI H5N1 circulating in Europe due to the outbreaks in mammals in Belgium and Spain (ferrets and minks) and some cases in wild animals (mammals)
- Information about the human cases in Cambodia (one fatal)  

- Ministerial Circular letter to Regional Authorities on surveillance both at human and animal level (wild and domestic)



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Thanks for your kind attention