

Non notifiable Avian Influenza H3

Belgium

PAFF Committee 13 May 2019



Timeline

- First case detected in January 2019
 - In the framework of the avian influenza surveillance programme
 - Flock of outdoor laying hens
 - LPAI H3N1, but brain was positive in PCR
 - Depopulation on initiative of the farmer
- 6 April: the same farm is infected again
- Quick rise of the number of cases since last week of April



Current situation

- 36 cases of non H5/H7 avian influenza confirmed by PCR
 - 31 cases of H3 of which 6 already confirmed as H3N1
 - 5 cases with low virus load couldn't be typed up until now



Clinical symptoms

- Eggshell defects (discoloring)
- Depression
- Severe drop in egg production
- Severe drop in feed intake
- Increasing mortality (25-30%), up to 60%
- Sometimes slowly spreading
- Sometimes no clinical symptoms at all





Post mortem examination



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Post mortem examination



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Post mortem examination



Post mortem examination



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The virus

- Avian influenza virus H3N1
- IVPI 0.13 : low pathogenic
- Genetically related to a strain isolated from a wild bird in the Netherlands 2017

Not notifiable

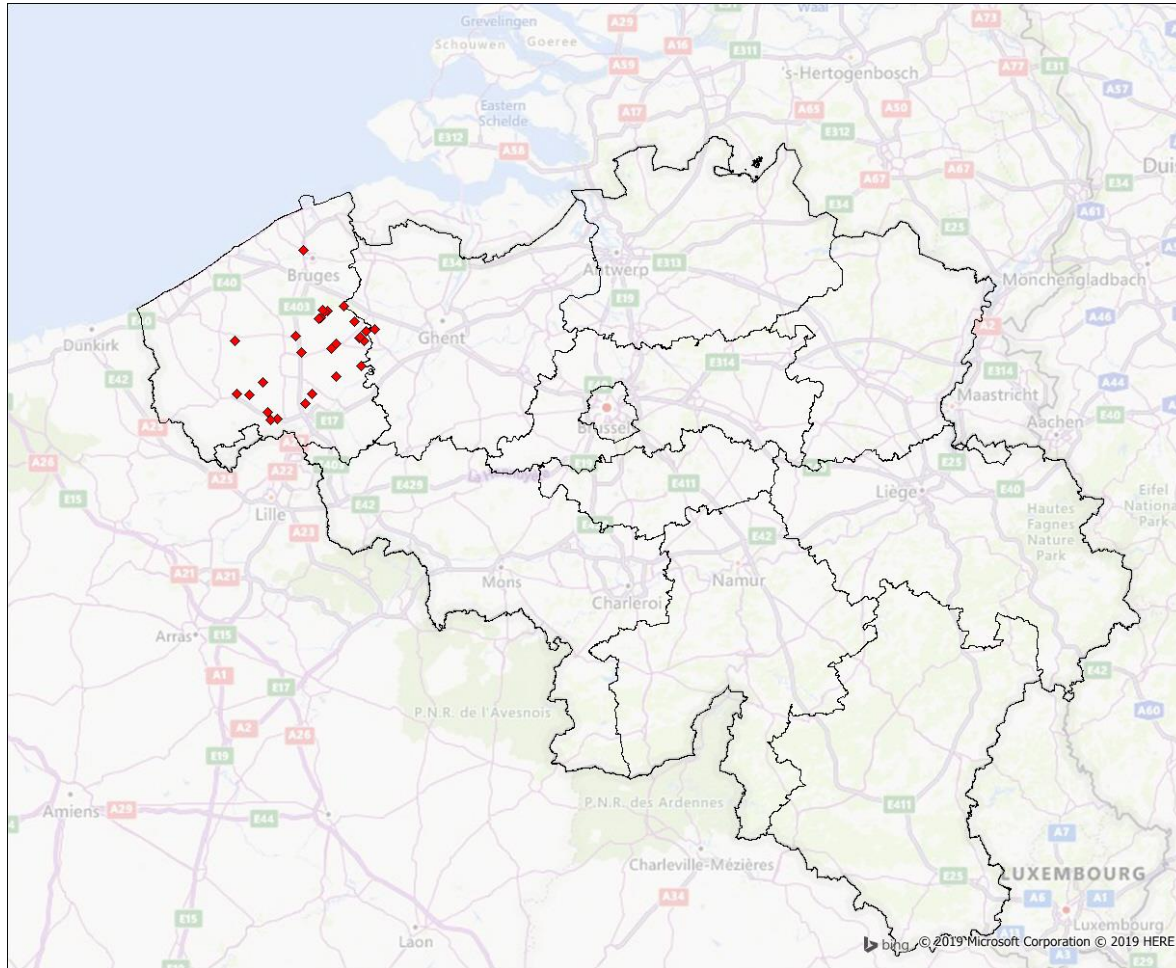


Epidemiological investigation

- Clustering of cases in the provinces of West Flanders and East Flanders
- No common link between the affected farms
- No common other pathogen that causes the disease (IB, E. coli, ...)
- Farms with breeders, laying hens, broilers and meat turkeys
 - H3 confirmed: 13 breeders, 15 laying hens, 3 turkeys



Confirmed H3 cases 10 May 2019



Measures (to be) taken

- No specific legislation in place
- Temporary legal measures are considered:
 - Culling of the affected flocks with compensation?
 - Slaughtering of the healthy flocks in the affected farms?
 - Cleaning and disinfection of the affected farms
 - No repopulation for at least 21 days
 - Biosecurity measures



Thank you for your attention

