



# Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in Belgium

## *Situation and measures in place*



AHW PAFF, 14-15 December 2023

# Summary of H5N1 outbreaks in poultry in 2023

- 6 HPAI H5N1 and 1 LPAI H5N1 outbreaks

Place	Strain	Date	Type holding	Comments
Tongeren	HPAI H5N1	12-01-2023	21,450 laying hens	11 October 2022: already confirmed positive for HP H5N1 <u>Epidemiological investigation</u> : Control of the pullets' origin farm: negative results Phylogenetic comparison with the strain isolated in an earlier outbreak in Tongeren -> link established
Wervik 1	HPAI H5N1	20-01-2023	38,600 laying hens	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Wervik 2	HPAI H5N1	25-01-2023	97,225 turkeys	In the 10 km zone delimited for the 1 <sup>st</sup> outbreak in Wervik <u>Source</u> : epidemiological ongoing, new introduction or spill-over
Aalst	HPAI H5N1	24-02-2023	73,070 broilers	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Diksmuide 1	HPAI H5N1	01-12-2023	20,100 chicken breeders	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Diksmuide 2	HPAI H5N1	08-12-2023	24,664 laying hens	In the 3 km zone delimited for the 1 <sup>st</sup> outbreak in Diksmuide <u>Source</u> : airborne transmission?

Place	Strain	Date	Type holding	Comments
Zonnebeke	LPAI H5N1	27-01-2023	17,486 chicken breeders	In the 10 km zones delimited for the 2 outbreaks in Wervik Slight increased mortality and decrease in egg-laying <u>Source</u> : Not known, different strain from LPAI detected in wild birds



# Summary of H5N1 HPAI outbreaks in captive birds in 2023

- 11 HPAI H5N1 outbreaks

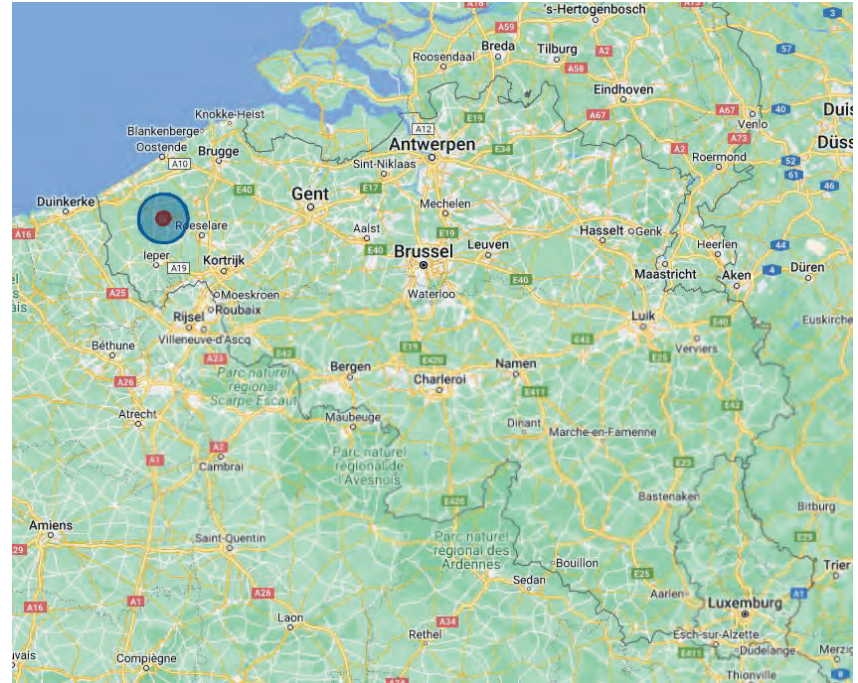
Place	Strain	Date	Type Holding	Captive birds	Comments
Berlare	HPAI H5N1	08-02-2023	Hobby holder	25 captive birds (hens, ducks and geese)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Philippeville	HPAI H5N1	10-02-2023	Hobby holder	14 captive birds (hens and one duck)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Lochristi	HPAI H5N1	16-02-2023	Hobby holder	46 captive birds ( <b>sport pigeons</b> )	
Lens	HPAI H5N1	16-02-2023	Hobby holder	15 captive birds (hens, ducks and geese)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Zandhoven	HPAI H5N1	17-02-2023	Hobby holder	20 captive birds (hens)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Péruwelz	HPAI H5N1	20-02-2023	Hobby holder	7 captive birds (hens)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Menen	HPAI H5N1	27-02-2023	Hobby holder	12 captive birds (hens)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Aalst	HPAI H5N1	28-02-2023	Hobby holder	43 captive birds (hens and turkeys)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Dour	HPAI H5N1	20-03-2023	Hobby holder	27 captive birds (hens and peacocks)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Erpe-Mere	HPAI H5N1	23-03-2023	Hobby holder	30 captive birds (hens and two turkeys)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Villers-la-Ville	HPAI H5N1	11-04-2023	Hobby holder	35 captive birds (hens and ducks)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected



# New outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry (1)

## 2 new outbreaks

1. **Diksmuide 01-12-2023**
  - Professional holding with 20,100 chicken breeders
  - No outdoor access
  - Source: wild birds suspected
2. **Diksmuide 08-12-2023**
  - Professional holding with 24,664 laying hens
  - Located in the 3-km zone of the first outbreak
  - No outdoor access
  - Source: airborne transmission??



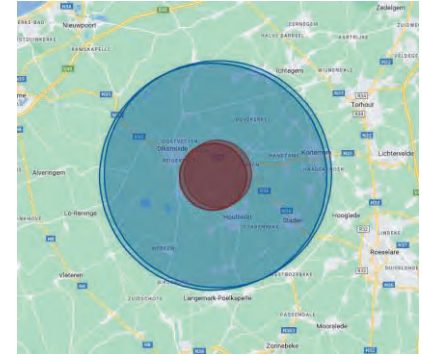
*Protection zones and surveillance zones for Diksmuide 1 and 2*



# New outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry (2)

## Measures in the outbreaks

- Culling and safe disposal of all poultry
  - Diksmuide (2): 19,891 broilers located on the same premises were also pre-emptively culled
- Litter removed, cleaning and disinfection
- Protocol for restocking with at least 3-week sanitary vacuum
  - Repopulation only after approval by the FASFC
- Establishment of Protection (3 km) and Surveillance (10 km) zones around the outbreaks:



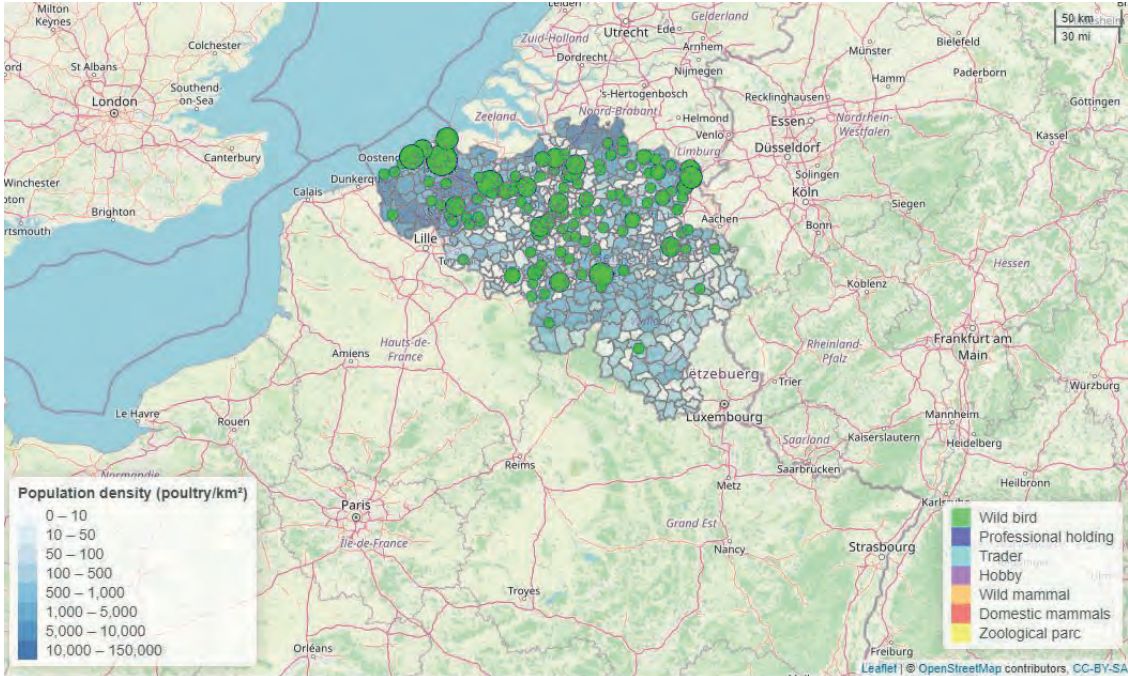
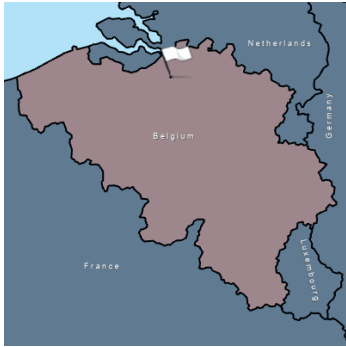
Establishments in the zones	Protection zone		Surveillance zone	
	Diksmuide (1)	Diksmuide (2)	Diksmuide (1)	Diksmuide (2)
	4 commercial poultry farms	4 commercial poultry farms	37 commercial poultry farms	39 commercial poultry farms

- All measures in the protection and surveillance zones are implemented in compliance with the Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687/EU

# Outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in 2023

## 192 HPAI H5N1 cases

- All Belgian provinces concerned
- Last case on 11-12-2023:  
Eurasian Curlew



# Additional measures applicable throughout Belgium – Increased risk period

A period of increased risk was implemented on the 15th of November 2021 and is still in force in Belgium.

- Measures were softened on 23rd of June 2023
- In response to the current epidemiological situation, measures were reinforced on the 9th of December

The following measures currently apply:

- All poultry and captive birds in registered establishments must be confined or protected to prevent any contact with wild birds
- Watering and feeding of all poultry and captive birds must be carried out indoors or in such a way as to prevent any contact with wild birds
- Watering of all poultry and captive birds with water from surface water tanks or rainwater accessible to wild birds is prohibited, unless it is treated to ensure inactivation of potential viruses
- Thinning of broilers is only allowed under specific conditions determined by the FASFC
- Gatherings of poultry and captive birds are forbidden except for other captive birds for non-commercial gatherings and public market organised by a local authority but under strict conditions
- Increased daily biosecurity, yearly biosecurity check
- Increased vigilance





A large flock of birds, possibly terns, is captured in flight against a clear, light blue sky. The birds are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others further away, creating a sense of depth and movement. The text "Thank you for your attention" is centered over the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Thank you for your attention

