



Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in Belgium

Situation and measures in place



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Zones and outbreaks in Belgium

- **France:** 5 H5N1 outbreaks near the Belgian border
 - 3 outbreaks closed -> the 3 surveillance zones and 1 protection zone on Belgium territory were lifted
 - 2 outbreaks still active: 2 surveillances zones delimited on Belgium territory



- **Belgium:** 4 H5N1 outbreaks
 - Alveringem and Weelde : 2 outbreaks in commercial poultry farm -> Closed outbreaks and zones were lifted
 - Veurne : commercial poultry farm -> zones still delimited
 - Bocholt: captive birds -> zones still delimited



Summary of outbreaks in Belgium

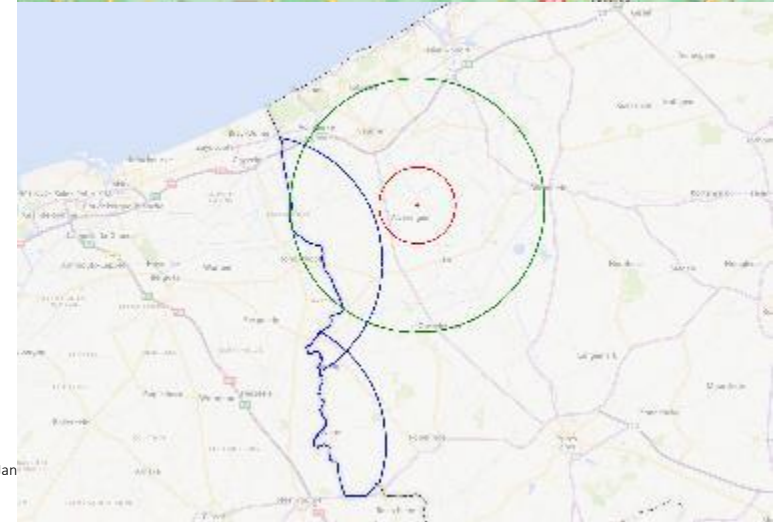
Place	Type of AI virus	Animals	Zones	Established on	Lifted on
Alveringem	HPAI H5N1	Poultry (broilers)	Protection zone (3 km)	08-12-2021	29-12-2021
			Surveillance zone (10 km)	08-12-2021	07-01-2022
Weelde	HPAI H5N1	Poultry (chicken breeders)	Protection zone (3 km)	08-12-2021	29-12-2021
			Surveillance zone (10 km)	08-12-2021	07-01-2022
Veurne	HPAI H5N1	Poultry (laying hens)	Protection zone (3 km)	28-12-2021	18-01-2022*
			Surveillance zone (10 km)	28-12-2021	27-01-2022*
Bocholt	HPAI H5N1	Captive birds	Protection zone (3 km)	07-01-2022	28-01-2022*
			Surveillance zone (10 km)	07-01-2022	06-02-2022*

** Provisional date established. Actual date of lifting will depend on the results of the final monitoring in the zone.*



Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in poultry Alveringem

- Date of confirmation: 8th December 2021
- Alveringem: Province of West Flanders
- Commercial farm with 26,460 broilers ready for slaughter.
- High mortality but no clinical signs of HPAI infection
- **Outbreak closed**
 - Favourable final monitoring
 - Protection zone (3 km) was lifted on 29-12-2021
 - Surveillance zone (10 km) was lifted on 07-01-2022



Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in poultry Weelde

- Date of confirmation: 8th December 2021
- Weelde: Province of Antwerp
- Commercial farm with 38,978 chicken breeders
- High biosecurity level
 - Disease started in animals located near the ventilation inlet
- Respiratory clinical signs with open mouth, nasal discharge and lethargy
- High mortality : 400 poultry dead in short period of time
- Autopsy : petechial haemorrhages
- **Outbreak closed**
 - Favourable final monitoring
 - Protection zone (3 km) was lifted on 29-12-2021
 - Surveillance zone (10 km) was lifted on 07-01-2022



Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in poultry Veurne

- Date of confirmation: 28th December 2021
- Veurne: Province of West Flanders
- Commercial poultry farm with 162,000 laying hens
- High biosecurity level
 - Disease started in the enriched cages at the ventilation inlet (similar to the HPAI outbreak in Weelde)
 - The farm is located in a cross-border area with FR where the pressure from wild birds is very high
- 24/12/2021: 50% mortality of animals in 2 cages located at the back of the establishment at the air inlet
- 26/12/2021: increased mortality and clinical signs (respiratory symptoms, diarrhea, green manure, lethargy, reduced appetite) in other cages
- **Outbreak still in active**



14 Jan



Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in captive bird Bocholt

- Date of confirmation: 7th January 2022
- Bocholt: Province of Limburg
- Trader holding with 4,866 captive birds
 - Ornamental captive birds of various species (rheas, flamingos, pheasants, ducks, swans, geese, cranes, storks, ibis, rails, tropical pigeons, white stilts...)
 - Including species in the CITES list
- Slight increase of mortality in peacocks and pheasants
- No clinical signs and autopsy with no specific lesion indicative of HPAI
- No birds from the Bocholt outbreak have been certified for trade/export in the last 3 weeks prior to the notification
- **Outbreak still active**



Outbreak of HPAI H5N1

Measures in Belgian outbreaks

- Culling of all poultry and captive birds in the 4 outbreaks
 - Weelde outbreak : Pre-emptive culling of all breeding chickens (38,500) on the 2nd farm of the owner (the 2 establishments were located on both sides of the street)
- 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
 - Alveringem and Veurne : part of the 10 km zone on French territory
 - Weelde: part of the 10 km zone on the territory of the Netherlands
 - Bocholt: part of the 3 km and 10 km zones on the territory of the Netherlands

Alveringem



Weelde



Veurne



Bocholt



Protection (3 km) and Surveillance (10 km) zones

Measures in the outbreaks still active: Veurne and Bocholt

	Protection zone (3 km)	Surveillance zone (10 km)
Establishments in the zones	Veurne	
	3 commercial poultry farms	26 commercial poultry farms
	Bocholt	
	5 commercial poultry farms	17 commercial poultry farms <u>1 slaughterhouse</u>
Transport	Forbidden (poultry, hobby poultry, birds and hatching eggs) Not applicable to transit (on main roads without unloading or stopping)	
Measures for professionals and hobby holders	Poultry and captive birds - Forbidden of all gathering of poultry and captive birds (fairs, markets, expositions...) - Increase vigilance : Increase of morbidity/mortality or decrease of production must be immediately notify to FASFC	
Measures for non-registered hobby holders	Reinforced biosecurity (visitors ban, specific clothing, respect biosecurity measures)	



Protection (3 km) and Surveillance (10 km) zones

Measures in the outbreaks still in progress: Veurne and Bocholt

	Protection zone (3 km)	Surveillance zone (10 km)
Measures for professional holdings	<p>Clinical examination by the vet within 4 days and after in case of symptoms.</p>	<p>Clinical examination by the vet in case of symptoms</p>
	<p>Inventory of all poultry/birds in 24 h</p>	
	<p>If more than 0.25% mortality per day in stall/compartment: mandatory sampling for avian influenza</p>	
	<p>Reinforced biosecurity : ban on visitors, register of entries (except for zoos or nature reserves where visitors don't have access to areas where birds are kept), specific clothing, respect biosecurity requirement, disinfection of vehicles and materials, specific disposal of cadavers, prohibition of the disposal or spreading of litter/manure/slurry,...</p>	
	<p>Prohibition of consumption eggs removal from poultry farm except for direct transport to designated packaging center or farm producing egg products where they will be handled and processed.</p>	



Protection (3 km) and Surveillance (10 km) zones

Measures in the outbreaks still in progress: Veurne and Bocholt

	Protection zone (3 km)	Surveillance zone (10 km)
Slaughterhouses and hatcheries		Bocholt: 1 slaughterhouse can continue activities via corridor for poultry from outside the zone and, after authorisation, from inside the zones (separated flows)
	<p>Derogation allowed for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bocholt from 12.01.2022 • Veurne from 28.12.2021 	
	<p><u>Hatching eggs</u> may be transferred to hatchery for hatching or to egg breaking plant for processing</p> <p>Only for Veurne: <u>Slaughter poultry</u> may be removed to slaughterhouse (logistical slaughter)</p>	<p><u>Hatching eggs</u> may be transferred to hatchery for hatching</p> <p><u>Slaughter poultry</u> may be removed to slaughterhouse (logistical slaughter)</p>
Foreseen lifting	After 21 days => become a 10 km surveillance zone	After 30 days and favourable monitoring



Additional measures on the whole territory – Increased risk period

- Increased risk period declared on 15 November 2021
 - Confinement or protection of all poultry and captive birds (except ratites)
 - Drinking and feeding inside or protected
 - Watering of poultry and captive birds with surface water/rainwater is forbidden (except if treated to inactivate viruses)
 - Thinning of broilers only under specific conditions determined by the FASFC
 - Gatherings of poultry and captive birds are forbidden except for other captive birds non-commercial gatherings
 - **Increased daily biosecurity**
 - **Increased vigilance**



Outbreak of HPAI in wild birds

- 30 cases since the 11 November 2021
- 28 H5N1 and 2 H5NX HPAI
- 24 different sites
- 4 provinces: West Flanders, Eastern Flanders, Antwerp and Limburg



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 movement and depth. The text "Thank you for your attention" is centered over the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Thank you for your attention

