

# Standing Committee on Plants, Animal, Food and Feed

Sections Animal Health and Welfare & Controls and  
Import Conditions

## Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza

16th May 2017



# Framework

- Situation in France
  - The national situation regarding outbreaks
  - Decrease of outbreaks
  - Headcount of slaughters
  - The H5N1 case
- Control measures
  - Restocking and zone lifting
  - The strategy in the le large RZ
  - Evolution of the level of risk
  - The Pact



# The national situation regarding outbreaks

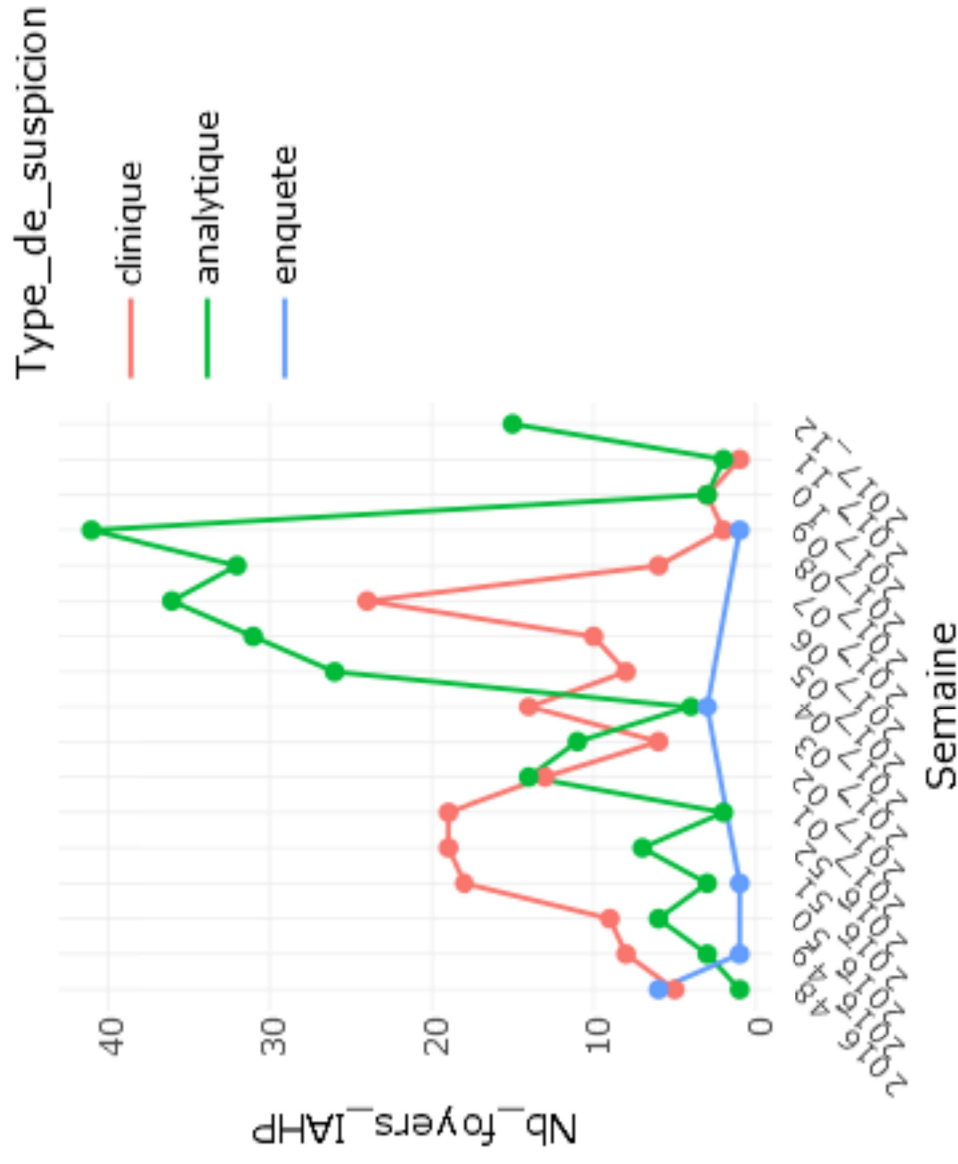
- Since November 28th 2016 : 485 outbreaks in domestic farms have been detected in South-West France and 55 in wild birds and captive avifauna in different regions of France
- Last HP outbreak detected the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017
- Last LP outbreak detected the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Pathogenicity	viral subtype	Domestic poultry					Captive avifauna	Wild Birds
		Palmipedes	Galliformes	Multi-species	unknown	Total		
HP	H5Nx	121	6	3	6	<b>136</b>	0	19
	H5N1	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	0	0
	H5N8	265	52	24	7	<b>348</b>	3	<b>33</b>
<b>Total HP</b>		<b>387</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>52</b>



# Decrease of outbreaks

- Decrease of outbreaks detected in palmipeds



# Decrease of outbreaks

- The control strategy deployed since January 5 involving zoning (PZ/SZ), preventive culling and a temporary controlled zone at the periphery of the most contaminated areas has slowed down the dynamics of disease progression.
- The number of outbreaks has sharply decreased since March 2017.
- Retrospective epidemiological studies are conducted to analyse the geographical and time pattern of the spread of the infection taking into account the control measures (e.g. introduction of preventive culling)



# Headcount of slaughters

- **Slaughtered animals (data under consolidation)**

<i>Gallus gallus</i>	1 360 883
Palmipeds	5 413 447
Others	141 670

- **For palmipeds ~ 50% culled animals in preventive slaughtering : 533 holdings out of which 139 appeared to be infected (=> 25% of HPAI outbreaks detected by prev. culling)**



# HPAI H5N1 case, March 2017 France

## Farm characteristics

**Integrated Duck Farm** : “foie gras” production chain  
capacity of 4 flocks

- 3 free range (growing): barns A,B,C
- 1 indoor housed (force feeding): barn D

## Viral characteristics

HPAI H5N1 directly related to France  
2015-2016 AIV strains

H5 sequence (193 nucl.) directly related to 2015-2016  
AIV strains H5 sequences

N1 sequence (525 nucl.) directly related to 2015-2016  
AIV strains N1 sequences

## History

Evidence of previous AI H5 infection

2 free range flocks present

Control for AI annual survey (no clinical signs)

13/10/16  
**Flock -1 (barn A)**  
H5 Seropositive (7+/20) confirmed  
21/10  
RT-PCR negative  
11 weeks old ducks

21/10/16  
**Flock -2 (barn C)**  
Seropositive (3+/20)  
RT-PCR negative  
8 weeks old ducks

### Decontamination process :

- Culling
- Cleaning
- Disinfection
- Following period

Backyard : 5 hens

**Detection: analytic** (no clinical signs)

Farm located in temporary control zone

2 free range flocks present

Control for movement (to force feeding farms)

22/12/16  
**Flock 1 (barn A)**  
Entry  
(1 day old)

10/03/17  
**HPAI H5N1**  
(RT-PCR confirmed 21/03)

23/01/17  
**Flock 2 (barn B)**  
Entry  
(1 day old)

Backyard : 5 hens

**CULLING**



# HPAI H5N1 case, March 2017 France

## Contamination origin assumptions

### Major assumption :

#### **resurgence from a source located in the farm**

- Evidence of previous infection in the farm by a AI virus type A H5 (seropositivity) that occurred between September and October 2016 , asymptomatic infections in both situations, 2017 virus strain directly related to the 2015-2016 strains present in the region
  - Gap in the decontamination process following the previous infection detection:
    - Backyard of 5 hens kept during the following period (at 10 m from barn A)
    - Manure kept on the farm (in manure tank)
    - No decontamination of the watering system
    - Domestic cat and dogs in direct contact with ducks before and after the decontamination process
  - Meteorological conditions conducive to the survival of the virus in environment

### Minor assumption :

#### **resurgence from synanthropic wild birds**

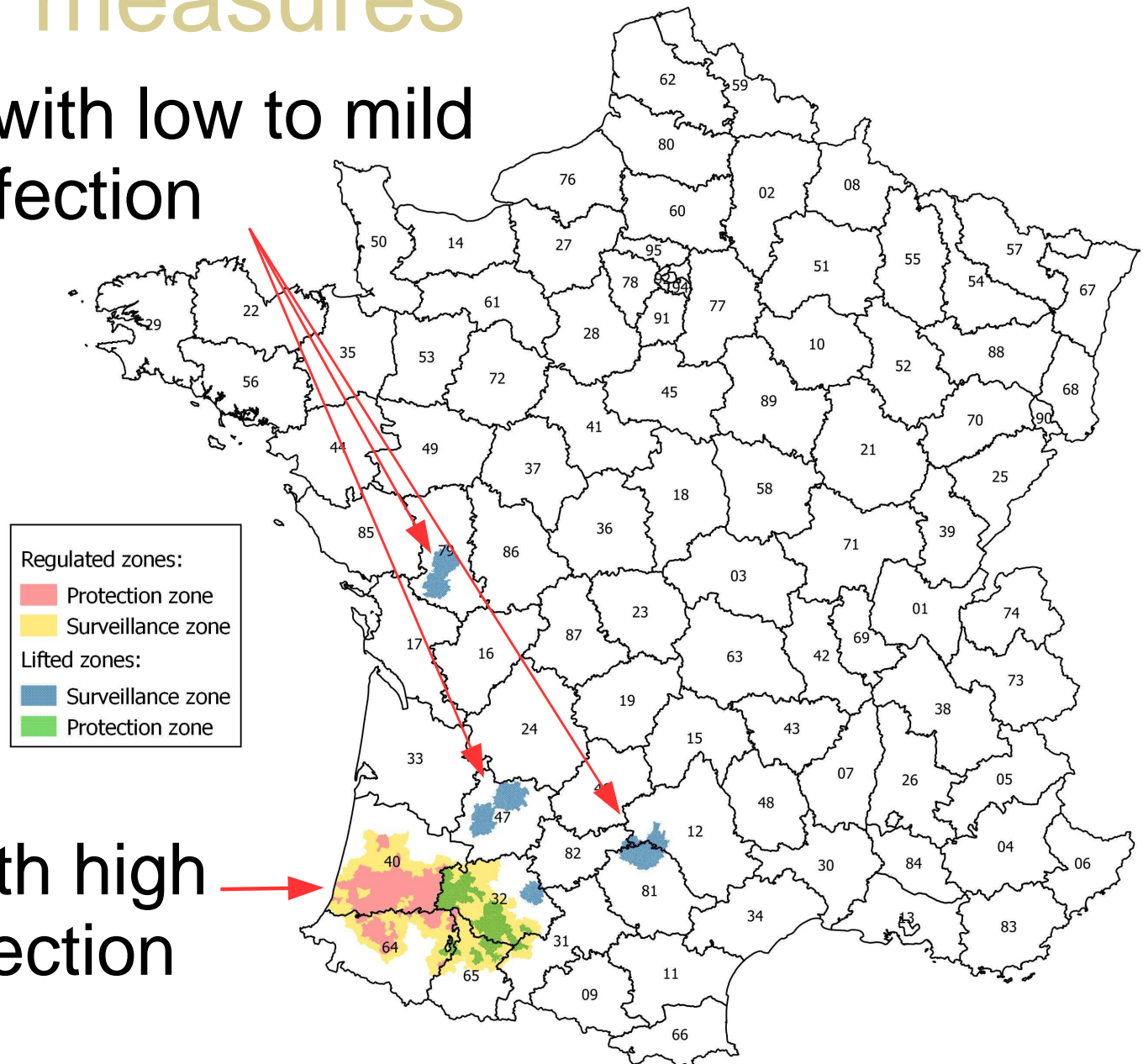
- Evidence of previous infection in the farm
- Presence of wild birds in contact with free ranged ducks
  - Feeding and watering on the open-air runs





# Strategy for restocking and lifting of measures

1 : areas with low to mild level of infection



2 : area with high level of infection



# 1. Areas with low to mild level of infection

## **1. Restocking of galliforms once PZ and SZ are « stabilized » :**

- 3 weeks after stamping out and preliminary cleaning and disinfection measures
- no new outbreak or suspicion during a 3 weeks period
- commercial flocks visited in the PZ starting 7 days after removal of the outbreak.

## **2. Restocking of palmipeds once the PZ and SZ have been lifted with restrictions in farms :**

- Farmers' commitment to respect biosecurity rules
- Screening 21 days after being put outdoor or before being sent to another unit



## 2. Area with high level of infection

- 17/04 – 28/05 : crawl space period in palmipeds farms
- > 28/05, restocking under strict conditions
  - Farmers' commitment to respect biosecurity measures
  - Sampling of palmipeds newly introduced in every farms (first batch)
  - Breeding flocks tested every 6 months
  - Reinforcement of biosecurity measures during transportation (especially, cleaning and disinfection of animal trucks)



# Evolution of the level of risk with wildlife

- April 12th 2017, the level of risk regarding wild birds had decreased from « high » to « moderate »

However, the conditions relating to the high level of risk still applied in the areas of particular risk

- Since May 4th 2017, the level of risk regarding wild birds has decreased from « moderate » to « negligible ». This removes the constraints in areas of particular risk with wildlife

*(specific measures on restricted zones and general biosecurity measures still apply)*



# The Pact

- The Pact was signed the 13th April 2017 by 32 signatories including the poultry stakeholders, the Regions and Departments and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- It sets objectives :
  - Improved detection of the disease and collective reactions in the event of a crisis ;
  - Securing the production and the transport ;
  - Strengthening the application of biosecurity rules at farm workers' level ;
  - Actions at European and international level ;
  - A system of economic support to the consequences of HPAI.





Thank you for your attention

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