



Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen
Agence fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire
Föderalagentur für die Sicherheit der Nahrungsmittelkette
Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain

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Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in Belgium

Situation and measures in place



AHW PAFF, 15-16 February 2023

Jozef Hooyberghs DVM, MSc

Head of the “animal health section” – Directorate Animal Health - Control Policy (FASFC)

Summary since 20-10-22

- 8 HPAI H5N1 and 1 LPAI H5N1 outbreaks in poultry

Place	Strain	Date	Type holding	Comments
Hoogstraten 1	HPAI H5N1	23-10-2022	32,100 chicken breeders	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Hoogstraten 2	HPAI H5N1	28-10-2022	21,150 chicken breeders	In the 3 km zone delimited for the 1 st outbreak in Hoogstraten <u>Source</u> : no epidemiological link with 1 st outbreak in Hoogstraten, wild birds suspected
Turnhout	HPAI H5N1	10-11-2022	60,000 pullets for laying	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected. Holding in a sensitive natural area,
Houthulst 1	HPAI H5N1	25-12-2022	27,949 meat turkeys	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Houthulst 2	HPAI H5N1	29-12-2022	150,714 broilers	Preventive culling following the 1 st outbreak in Houthulst -> samples positive No clinical sign or abnormal mortality <u>Source</u> : most likely spill over from the infected turkey farm
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 October -> 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 1st outbreak in Wervik <u>Source</u> : epidemiological ongoing, new introduction or spill-over

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 since 20-10-22

o 11 HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in captive birds

Place	Strain	Date	Type Holding	Captive birds	Comments
Evergem	HPAI H5N1	20-10-2022	Trader	1,250 captive birds (ducks, geese, ornamental hens, ibis, grey cranes, etc.)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Aywaille	HPAI H5N1	21-10-2022	Hobby holder	11 captive birds (hens and turkeys)	<u>Source</u> : purchase of 3 turkeys from a trader outbreak
Eke	HPAI H5N1	27-10-2022	Hobby holder	9 captive birds (hens)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Bruglette	HPAI H5N1	05-11-2022	Zoological park	887 captive birds of various species Most of them are endangered protected species	None of the captive birds are vaccinated against AI Mortality of 4 Australian pelicans No clinical signs in other birds in the park <u>Source</u> : wild geese which feed on the estate's lakes
Lennik	HPAI H5N1	22-11-2022	Hobby holder	3 captive birds (hens)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Lontzen	HPAI H5N1	25-11-2022	Hobby holder	6 raptors including protected species (barn owl, eagle owl, screech owl, etc.)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
Sint-Truiden	HPAI H5N1	23-12-22	Hobby holder	17 captive birds (14 hens and 3 ducks) Also about 40 ferrets bred for hunting	<u>Mortality</u> : 12 hens and 1 ducks + 6 ferrets in the enclosure in contact with the captive birds' pen <u>Clinical sign</u> : only respiratory signs in ferrets HPAI H5N1 confirmed in captive birds and ferrets
Durbuy	HPAI H5N1	20-12-2022	Hobby holder	17 captive birds (hens and geese)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected (contacts observed)
Diksmuide	HPAI H5N1	23-12-2022	Hobby holder	23 captive birds (hens, ducks and geese)	<u>Source</u> : wild birds suspected
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

Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in ferrets

- Hobby holders keeping captive birds + ferrets bred for hunting in different outdoor and indoor enclosures
- Mortality: 12 hens and 1 ducks + 6 ferrets in the enclosure in contact with the captive birds' pen
- Clinical signs: only respiratory signs in ferrets
 - HPAI H5N1 confirmed in captive birds and ferrets
- Measures:
 - **Captive birds**: All remaining captive birds culled and necessary biosecurity measures applied
 - **Ferrets**: No clinical signs/mortality in ferrets in other enclosures and since the confirmation
 - All tested 2 times with favorable results
 - **Owners**: human health authorities informed
 - Owners were regularly tested with favorable results
- Source:
 - **Captive birds**: wild birds suspected
 - **Ferrets**: consumption of eggs from the infected captive birds suspected

Outbreak closed



Measures in the outbreaks

HPAI

- Culling of all poultry and captive birds
- 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 all outbreaks in poultry and around outbreaks with more than 50 captive birds
- **Exception** : **Outbreak in captive birds in Brugelette and in Lontzen**
 - Considering the high genetic and cultural value and derogation provided in Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687/EU
 - No culling
 - Measures only applied in the park and no zoning established.
 - All the captive birds are isolated and the necessary biosecurity measures were applied
- All measures in the protection and surveillance zones are implemented in compliance with the Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687/EU

LPAI

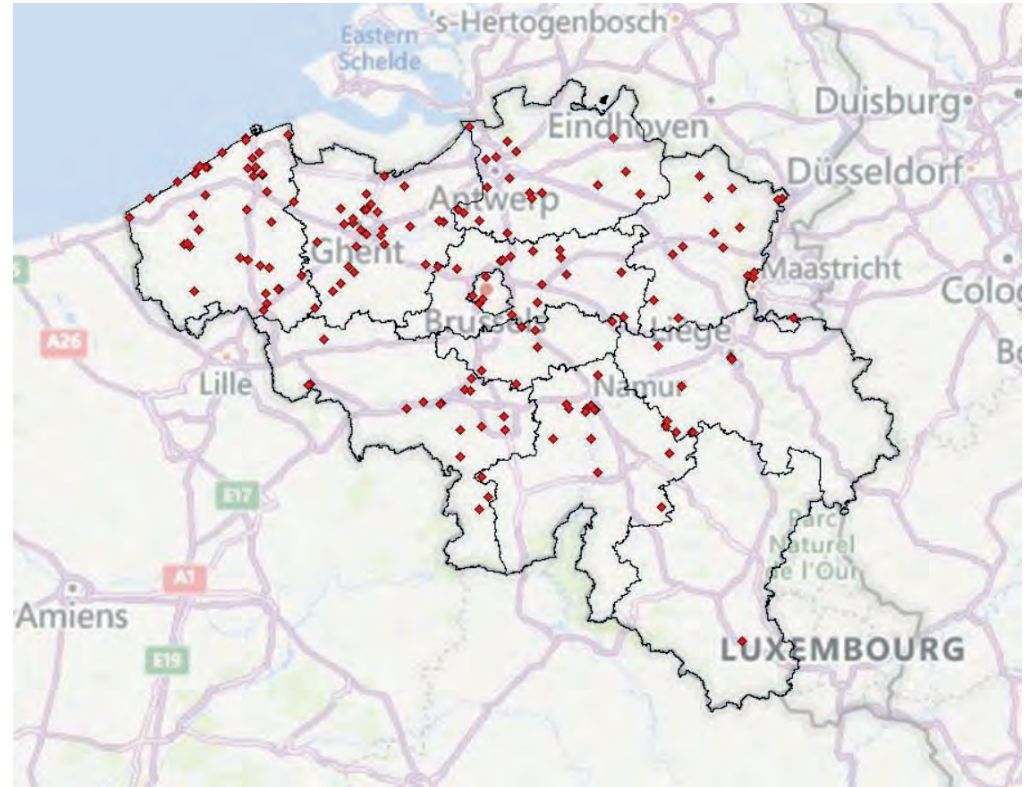
- Culling of all poultry in the outbreak
- Already included and covered by the measures of the Wervik protection zone
 - no additional measures except the cleaning and disinfection of the establishment and no new zones delimited



Outbreak of HPAI in wild birds

From 1st Augustus to 13th February 2023

- 179 HPAI H5N1 cases
 - All 10 Belgian provinces concerned
- 20 LPAI H5N1 cases
 - Different strains from the LPAI detected in poultry



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 image in a white, sans-serif font.

Thank you for your attention

