

About this dossier

Output on: 2021/02/01 16:33
(Europe/Luxembourg)

Status: closed (submitted)

Created: 2020/05/31 00:10

Last updated: 2020/12/14 09:33

Eradication: Final report for Salmonella 2019

For each approved annual or multi-annual programme Member States shall submit to the Commission by the 30 April each year an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred (Art 14 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014).

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ID: 20200531-9ZK2XZ4S

Country code: EL

Reporting period

From: 2019

To: 2019

Year of implementation: 2019

1. Technical implementation of the programme

1.1 Description and evaluation of the evolution of the epidemiological situation, the technical implementation of the activities foreseen under the programme and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.

The NSCP's are implemented in the whole territory of Greece and comply with the requirements laid down in Regulations: Reg. (EC) No 2160/2003, Reg. (EC) No 200/2010, Reg. (EC) No 517/2011, Reg. (EC) No 200/2012, Reg. (EC) No 1190/2012, Reg. (EC) No 1177/2006, Reg. (EC) No 1237/2007 and Reg. (EC) 2073/2005.

The bodies responsible for implementing the NSCP's are:

1. The Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate / Veterinary Services Directorate General) /Ministry of Rural development and Food.
2. The Regional Veterinary Authorities;
3. Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes (Ministry of Rural development and Food) and Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory (Ministry of Rural development and Food).
4. Chalkida Veterinary Laboratory, which is the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella.

All official samples collected as part of the national salmonella control programmes are examined at the three above-mentioned accredited laboratories.

5. The operators of the Turkeys and Gallus gallus poultry farms;

6. The private laboratories carrying out analyses on own-check samples as part of the NSCP's.

In order the NSCP's to be applied in a uniform way across the country, the CCA has published a number of ministerial decisions and circulars and has created manuals with detailed instructions related to the

programmes procedures.

All the national decisions and some of the relevant guides can be found at:

<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer-2/animal-production/ptina/astheneiesptinon-menu/459-salmonelosi> and <http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer-2/animal-production/ptina/astheneiesptinon-menu/1468-paroyssemin>

The key points of the NSCP's in order to achieve their objectives (reduction of the relevant salmonella serotypes at least to the level set by the EU regulations in the relevant poultry populations) are:

1. the implementation of controls (official and own-check controls) during which official and sampling at the initiative of the FBOs is carried out following at least the minimum sampling requirements described under the relevant EU Regulations .
2. the implementation of measures (restrictive or other measures are placed on the infected flocks and on their products) in case of suspect (detection of salmonella spp) and positive results (detection of the targeted salmonella serovars)
3. the implementation of vaccination (obligatory in flocks of laying hens Gallus gallus and voluntary in flocks of breeding hens Gallus gallus)
4. the implementation of strict biosecurity measures.

Biosecurity is part of the national salmonella control programmes (annex attached to the national decisions for the implementation of national salmonella control programmes). Guides are in place and their implementation is linked to compensation. In addition they are regularly assessed by the CA. The CA assesses the biosecurity measures each time they perform official control for the NSCP. This assessment is followed by a written report which includes also the results from the biosecurity assessment.

5. the existence of a mandatory notification system and of a system to monitor the implementation of the NSCPs at central and at regional level.

Each case of positive salmonella spp result is notified without delay to the regional veterinary competent authority in order to take measures in case of suspicion and to the Department of Zoonoses.

In addition, every 6 months, state veterinary laboratories report the results of official checks performed in the context of NSCP to the Department of Zoonoses and the approved private laboratories report the results of the own-check received in the context of NSCP to the NRL, which then report them to the Department of Zoonoses.

In addition, all the Regional Veterinary Units report 2 times per year to the Department of Zoonoses detailed information for all the relevant poultry flocks of their territory. This information includes data on the official and own-check controls (dates, results, type of sampling), data on vaccination (number of vaccine doses administered), number of infected birds culled or destroyed etc.

At regional level the monitoring of the implementation of the programme is achieved by the following way: Each flock is identified with a unique code number consisting of the following elements: code number of the holding/number of the house/date of placement of the flock in the house.

During official control, the official veterinarian records all the information regarding the flock (date of placement, own-check results, data on vaccination etc).

Currently, the Department of Zoonoses in collaboration with the Directorate of E-Government of the Ministry, have developed an on-line system for the on-line submission of all the information related to sampling and laboratory testing. This system is still not operational.

6. the existence of a system for the compensation of the owners for the value of their birds slaughtered or culled and the eggs destroyed or heat treated.

Owners of breeding hens, laying hens and breeding turkeys who are obliged to slaughter or destroy contaminated flocks or destroy contaminated eggs within the framework of NSCPs are compensated in accordance with the relevant joint ministerial decision on financial aid.

The amount of the compensation is calculated on the basis of value tables drawn up by the sector and validated by the Ministry of Finance.

The valuation/valorisation of birds is defined at central level annually by the issue of an annual Joint Ministerial Decision (Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Rural Development and Food), which is publicly available at the official Gazette's web site and the Ministry's web site. In the above-mentioned Joint Ministerial Decision there is a scale of compensation of birds. There is a link between compensation and effective biosecurity measures: FBO's that do not comply with the minimum requirements on biosecurity, as set out in the national legislation for the implementation of NSCP, do not take any compensation in case of a positive flock although they are obliged to implement the measures of parts C, D and E of Annex II of Reg. (EC) No 2160/2003.

The conditions that must be met by the farmer, the procedure of payment and all required supporting documents are described in details in the above JMD.

Evaluation of NSCP's implementation

The attached epidemiological tables provide information on the coverage and implementation of the NSCP's in the different regions of the country, the isolation of positive flocks for Salmonella spp and for the targeted salmonella serotypes, as well as for the flocks slaughtered or destroyed.

From the above one can notice that the implementation of the NSCP's in 2019 was in general satisfactory. There were, in some Regional Units, some difficulties and deficiencies in implementing the programmes (i.e. not maintaining the frequency for self-monitoring and official sampling).

At this point we must emphasize that there is an extreme lack of permanent veterinary staff at all levels, both at central and at regional level, which is the main reason for the unsatisfactory results. The official sampling, as well as the official control in the framework of NSCPs are implemented by official veterinarians. The aforementioned shortage in veterinary staff combined with the high poultry population reared in some Regional Units and the epizootics that have occurred in Greece the past few years, have resulted in some cases in deficiencies related to the implementation of the programme.

Therefore, regarding the implementation of the program in laying hens, the number of official visits for taking official samples within the framework of NSCP was inadequate.

Achievement of EU targets

Although, a number of problems were observed during the evaluation of the NSCP's implementation, consisting of difficulties in keeping the frequency of self-checks and official controls and the failure to apply official sampling in individual cases, we consider that, in general, the programmes were cost-effective. Specifically, any failures of the competent veterinary authorities to meet the requirements regarding the frequency of official sampling observed in some cases are due to the shortage of official veterinary staff. Moreover, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the relevant measures taken, some Regional Units were unable to collect and send all the necessary data, concerning the implementation of the NSCP's in 2019.

1.2 Details on the level of achievement of the targets set in the approved programme and technical difficulties.

See attached excel tables: Implementation of NSCP in breeders, layers, broilers, breeding and fattening turkeys.

The implementation of the NSCP's for 2019 was in general satisfactory.

Failure of the competent veterinary authorities to meet the requirements with regard to the frequency of official sampling observed in some cases is due to the acute shortage of veterinary services in the country in veterinary staff.

1.3 Epidemiological maps for infection and other relevant data on the disease/activities (information on serotypes involved,...) (Please attach files of data using the PDF attachment feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.

See attached files.

2. Tables for Salmonella monitoring outcome of the year

VERY IMPORTANT: Please fill out the following tables with figures corresponding to measures performed during the implementing period (1/1 to 31/12).

	Number of adults flocks checked	Number of these flocks infected by a target serovar	Incidence
Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	322	1	0.31 %
Laying hen flocks	681	5	0.73 %
Broiler flocks	8,061	17	0.21 %
Breeding flocks of turkeys	8	0	0 %
Fattening flocks of turkeys	60	0	0 %

Table A - BREEDING FLOCKS OF GALLUS GALLUS

No of flocks with more than 250 adult breeders of Gallus gallus	335
No of flocks covered by the programme - Rearing flocks	140
No of flocks covered by the programme - Adults	335
No of flocks checked by the Competent Authorities - Rearing flocks	0
No of flocks checked by the Competent Authorities - Adults	227
No of flocks checked by the FBO - Rearing flocks	139
No of flocks checked by the FBO - Adults	322
No of official visits to take samples - Routine (holding)	289
No of official visits to take samples - Routine (hatchery)	327

No of official visits to take samples - Confirmatory sampling	0
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of positive flocks - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of positive flocks - Adults	1
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Adults	1
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of birds concerned - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of birds concerned - Adults	6,930
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of eggs - Heat treated	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of eggs - Destroyed	75,600

Table B - FLOCKS OF LAYING HENS

No of holdings with more than 1,000 adult laying hens	361
No of flocks in these holdings - Rearing flocks	131
No of flocks in these holdings - Adults	548
No of holdings covered by the programme	629
No of flocks in these holdings - Rearing flocks	131
No of flocks in these holdings - Adults	852
Official checks - No of holdings with adult flocks checked	251
Official checks - No of adult flocks checked in these holdings	267
Official checks - No of pullet flocks checked in these holdings	0
FBO checks - No of holdings checked	629
FBO checks - No of adult flocks checked in these holdings	681
FBO checks - No of pullet flocks checked in these holdings	120
No of official visits to take samples - Routine	275
No of official visits to take samples - Confirmatory sampling	5
No of official visits to take samples - Specific samples	0
No of official visits to take samples - Competent authority samples	0
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks - Adults	5
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Adults	5
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of birds concerned - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of birds concerned - Adults	95,624
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of eggs - Destroyed	0

Table C - BROILER FLOCKS

No of holdings with more than 5,000 broilers	997
No of flocks produced in these holdings	8,330
No of holdings covered by the programme	1,065
No of flocks produced in these holdings	8,893
No of flocks checked (official checks)	88
No of flocks checked (FBO checks)	8,061
No of official visits to take samples - Routine	88
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
No of positive flocks (SE,ST)	0

Table D - BREEDING FLOCKS OF TURKEY

No of flocks with more than 250 adult breeding turkeys	10
No of flocks with elite, great grand parent, grand parents	0

No of flocks covered by the programme - Rearing flocks	0
No of flocks covered by the programme - Adults	10
No of flocks checked by the Competent Authorities - Rearing flocks	0
No of flocks checked by the Competent Authorities - Adults	2
No of flocks checked by the FBO - Rearing flocks	0
No of flocks checked by the FBO - Adults	8
No of official visits to take samples - Routine (holding)	1
No of official visits to take samples - Routine (hatchery)	1
No of official visits to take samples - Confirmatory sampling	0
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks - Adults	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Adults	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of birds concerned - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of birds concerned - Adults	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of eggs - Heat treated	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of eggs - Destroyed	0

Table E - FLOCKS OF FATTENING TURKEYS

No of holdings with more than 500 fattening turkeys	23
No of flocks produced in these holdings	81
No of holdings covered by the programme	23
No of flocks produced in these holdings	81
No of flocks checked (official checks)	7
No of flocks checked (FBO checks)	60
No of official visits to take samples - Routine	7
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
No of positive flocks (SE,ST)	0

Table F - LABORATORY TESTS

Laboratory tests on official samples	Nb of tests					
	Breeding flocks	Laying flocks	Broiler flocks	Breeding turkey flocks	Fattening turkey flocks	TOTAL
Microbiological tests	928	579	88	2	7	1,604
Serotyping tests	30	73	17	0	0	120
Disinfection efficacy tests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antimicrobial detection tests	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table G - VACCINATION

	No of flocks in the vaccination programme	No of flocks vaccinated	No of birds vaccinated	No of doses administered
Breeders	335	335	2,152,443	3,341,296
Layers	983	652	5,990,476	7,013,736
Breeding turkeys	1,318	987	8,142,919	10,355,032
	2,636	1,974	16,285,838	20,710,064

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

