



Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
*Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality*



HPAI in the Netherlands

15-16 December 2025





Timeline HPAI outbreaks

20 Nov TERHOLE

Hobby farm with 70 animals, Turkeys, chickens and ducks.
Approximately 20% of the animals are ill, with swollen heads and engorged blood vessels on the fallopian tubes.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687

21 Nov STREEFKERK

Laying hen farm with 15.700 animals in one stable. With 2.600 sick and 15 dead animals in one section.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687

24 Nov TERSCHUUR II

Laying hen farm with 27.700 animals distributed across 2 stables. Farm within 3- km zone of an earlier outbreak in this area. Regular screening of dead animals shows one positive carcass. No clinical signs among the live animals. Official tests were all negative. But two days later sick animals were found. Official tests now positive

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687





Timeline HPAI outbreaks

24 Nov HOLWIERDE

Broiler farm with 48.3300 animals distributed across 3 stables

For two days an increase of dead animals.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687

26 Nov TIENRAY

Broiler farm with 150.500 animals distributed across 5 stables.
Sudden finding of dead animals in one stable. The autopsy reveals congestion, blood-filled livers, fluid in the abdominal cavity and marbled spleens.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687





Timeline HPAI outbreaks

26 Nov BORNEBROEK

Broiler farm with one stable housing 18.400 animals. Since this morning an increase in dead animals

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687

26 Nov NIJMEGEN

Petting zoo with 52 chickens with mortality reported.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687

26 Nov HELDEN

Laying hen farm with 85.000 animals distributed across 2 stables. In one stable hens are ill. Sitting close to each other and do not respond.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687





Timeline HPAI outbreaks

> 30 Nov ZEEWOLDE

Meat duck farm with one empty stable and one stable with 12.000 animals. An increase of the number of dead animals was the incentive for the notification.

Animals also showed neurological symptoms

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687

1 Dec HIERDEN

Duck breeding farm with 10.800 animals divided across 4 stables. For two days there has been a decrease in feed intake and laying production. Also, a reduction of noise in the stable.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687

2 Dec NIJKERK

Duck breeding farm with approximately 10.000 ducks distributed across 7 stables. In one stable with 1.400 ducks a sharp decline in feed intake and egg production and silent animals.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687





Timeline HPAI outbreaks

2 Dec WEERT

A confined establishment with 1.300 flamingos and 250 cranes.
An increase in the number of dead flamingos. All young animals.
Additional information about this specific location will be given on a separate slide.

5 Dec DALEN

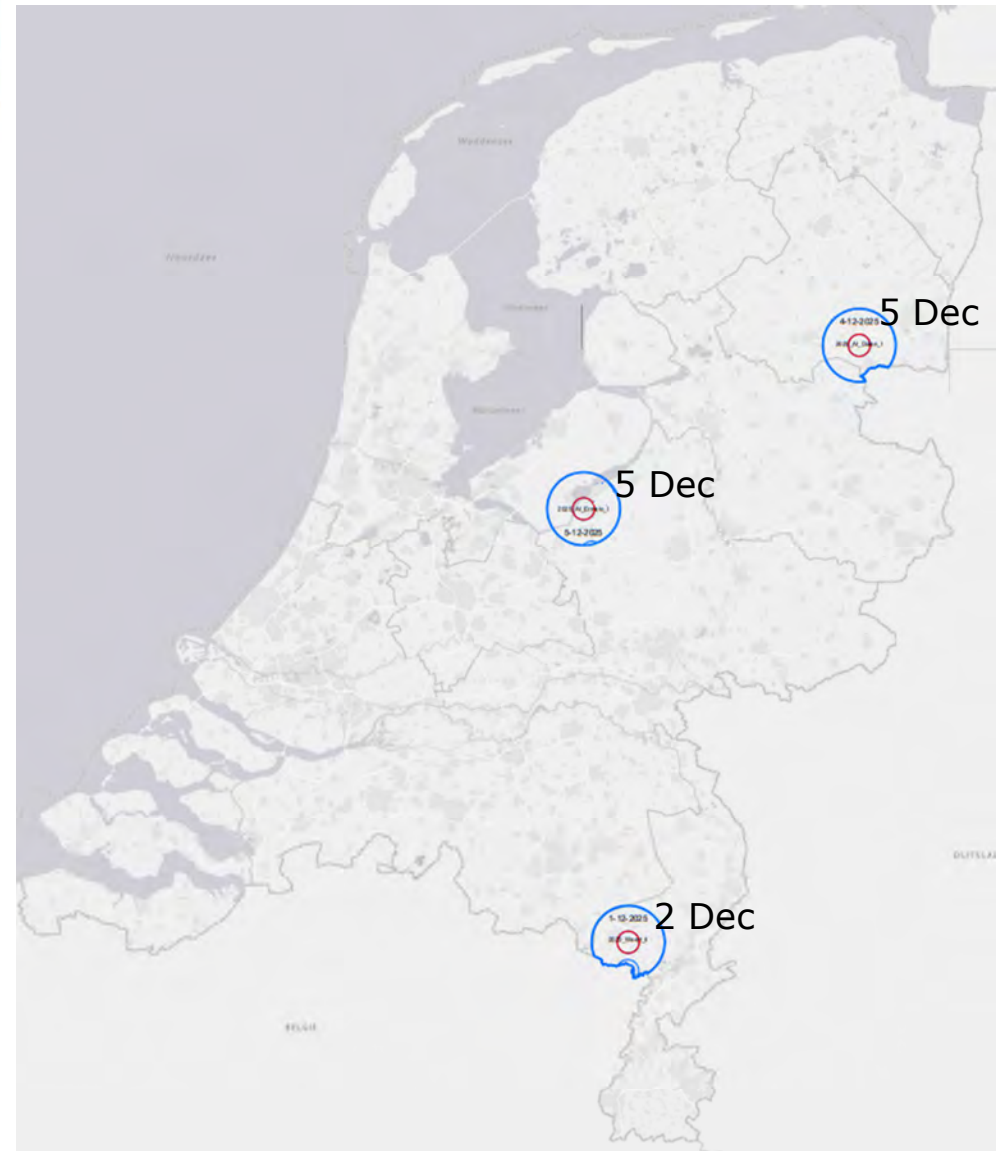
Laying hen farm with 24.000 animals distributed across 2 stables.
Since one day an increase in dead animals. Autopsy reveals peritonitis and abnormal spleen. The carcasses have discolored and inflamed combs. The birds also suffer from watery diarrhea.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687

5 Dec ERMELO

Meat duck farm with one empty stable and one stable with 6.500 ducks. there has been an increase in the number of dead animals. There is no noise in the stable.

Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687





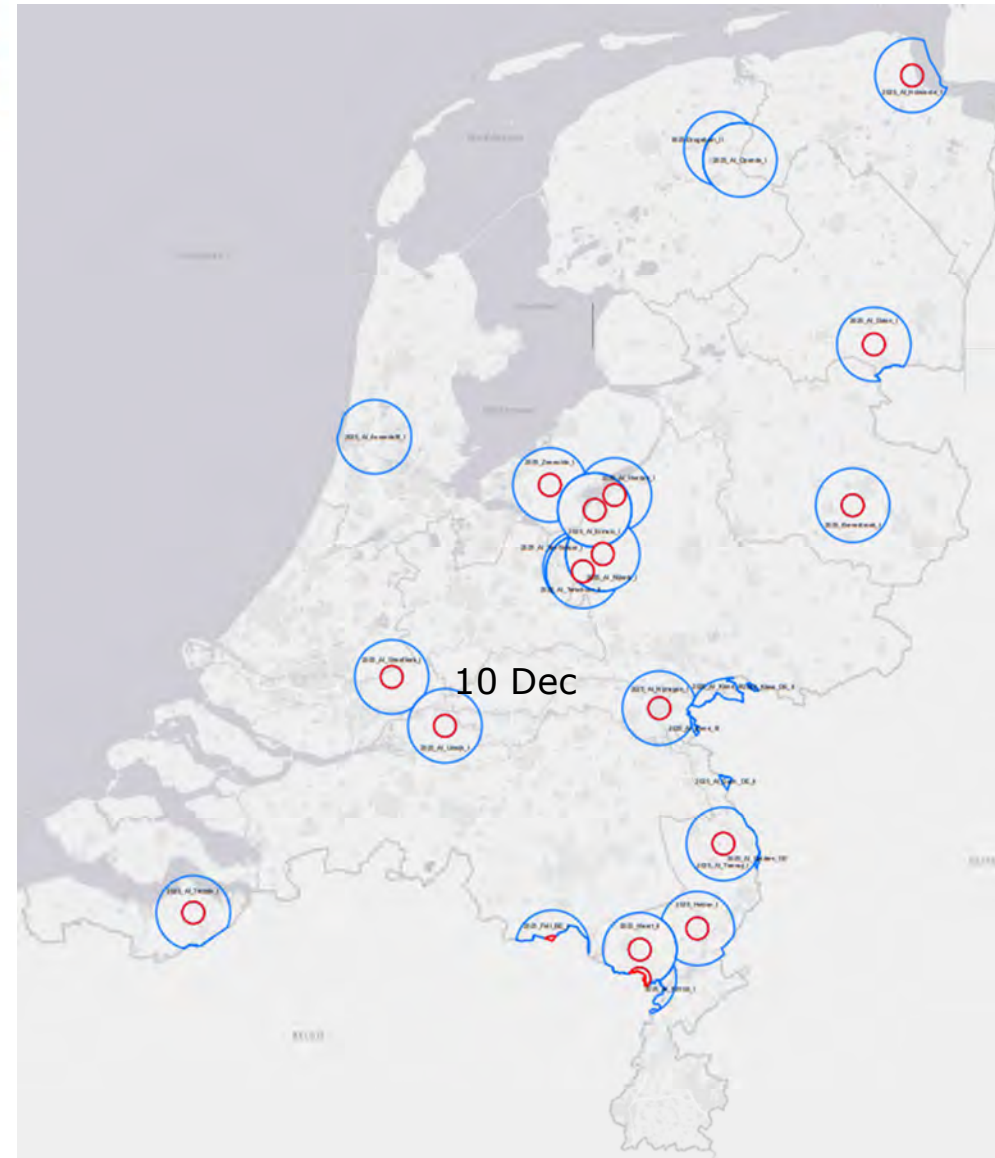
Timeline HPAI outbreaks

10 Dec UITWIJK

Broiler farm with 83.500 animals distributed across 4 stables.

In one stable clinical signs of HPAI were found, such as increased mortality. Autopsies reveal muscle haemorrhages, haemorrhages in the trachea and subcutaneous discolouration of the legs.

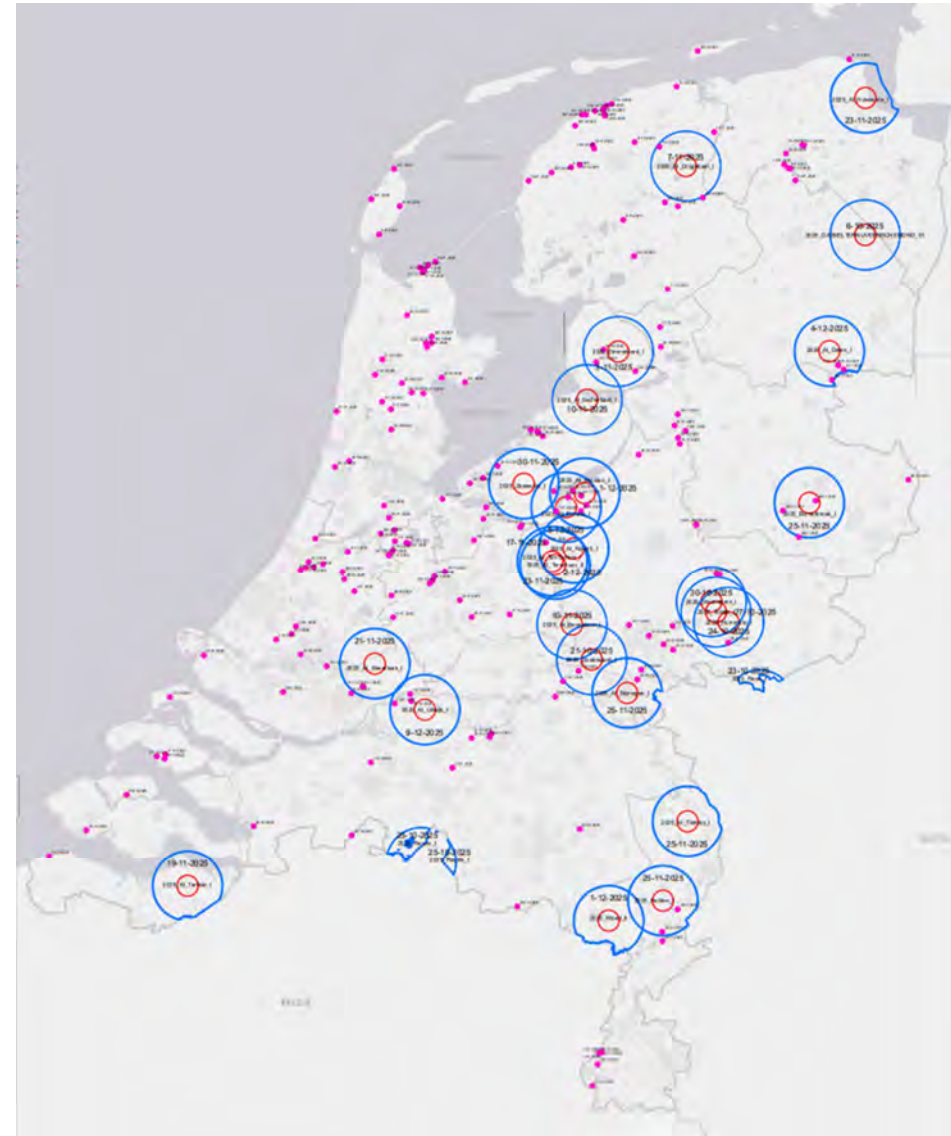
Measures according 2016/429 and 2020/687





HPAI in the wild

- From 1 October 191 finding spots with HPAI positive wild birds.





HPAI found in a confined establishment

- The confined establishment is a breeding center consisting of two separate epidemiological units. With in total approximately 1.300 flamingos and 250 cranes, 14 penguins, 6 emus and 2 macaws.
- HPAI was found in one flamingo and two birds that were dead in one unit.
- In the sections with PCR-positive birds, approximately 120 flamingos and cranes were euthanised. C&D of the pens with infected animals.
- Animals with high cultural/educational value are present at the infected location. Under European regulations (Article 13(2)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 2020/687), it is possible to derogate from the obligation to cull animals at an infected location in the case of animals with a duly justified high cultural/educational value.
- Many animals on the IUCN red list of threatened species. Many animals with high genetic value for breeding programs.





HPAI found in a confined establishment

- Given circumstances, decision was made to implement a protection and surveillance zone. Not mandatory for confined establishments.
- Intensified monitoring of the establishment. Ongoing epidemiological assessment.
- The assessment has shown so far that derogation of culling is justified.
- The biosecurity measures taken are monitored. The animals are subjected to clinical and laboratory tests for at least 21 days. After this period re-assessment





Sequencing finding

- › So far, all samples belong to HP H5N1 genotype DI.2.1. They cluster with other HPAI H5N1 viruses that are currently circulating in other European countries.
- › The first case in a mammal, namely a domestic cat (kitten) was found positive for HPAI by the NRL Nov 19th. Also HP H5N1 genotype DI.2.1. A number of zoonotic mutations have been found in this virus, including the known PB2:E627K, and a mutation that, as far as we know, has not been observed in the Netherlands before
- › No other abnormalities have been identified that we have not seen before in other mammals in the Netherlands.





Kittens HPAI

- > Case
 - November 19 1 kitten tested H5N1 positive. Present on a goat dairy.
 - Kitten died, also the other 7 kittens of the litter
 - Mother cat brought dead wild bird to the nest
 - It is suspected that this wild bird was infected, and the kittens became infected by eating this bird
 - Milk goats and 3 other cats who were also present at the location tested negative for HPAI
 - Dutch Health Service (GGD) screened all persons which were in contact with these kittens

- > First time in the Netherlands that HPAI-virus in a cat was found where the animals showed symptoms

- > In 2021-2024 HPAI-Ab in cats and (hunting)dogs were found in a study. These animals showed no symptoms



Kittens HPAI

> Actions taken

- Minister informed cat owners to go to the vet if their animal shows symptoms of bird flu and had been in contact with a wild bird
- Since 2023 a mandatory reporting requirement for positive laboratory results of avian influenza in mammals
- Based on advice from the Risk Assessment group (RIVM) and EFSA, targeted surveillance in cats will be implemented



Thank you for your
attention!

Questions?