



# Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in Belgium

## *Situation and measures in place*



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# Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in captive birds

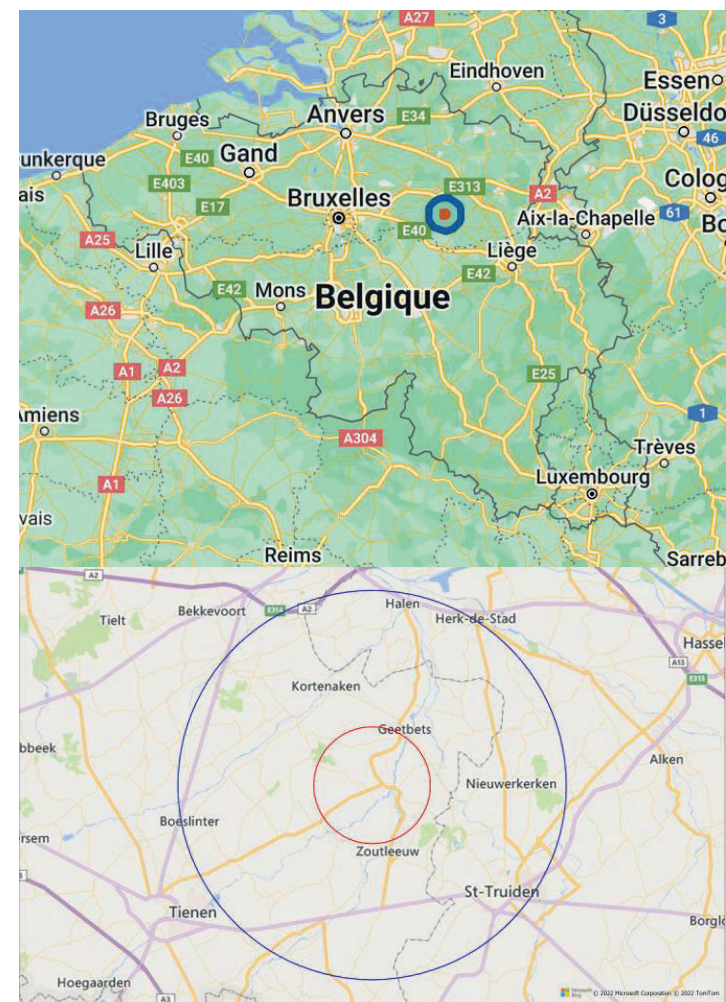
- HPAI H5N1
- Date of confirmation: 22nd June 2022
- Zoutleeuw: Province of Flemish Brabant
- Small scale trader with 211 captive birds
  - Hens, quails, pigeons, songbirds and a peacock
  - Part of the animals had outdoor access
  - Only captive birds for the hobby market
- Samples taken during a control by the FASFC



# Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in captive birds

## Measures in the outbreak establishment

- Culling of all captive birds in the outbreak
- Litter removed, preliminary cleaning and disinfection completed
- Protection zone (3 km) and surveillance zone (10 km) established (more than 50 captive birds)



# Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in captive birds

## Epidemiological investigation

- Neighbourhood: 3 hobby holders with captive birds (hens and Barbary ducks)
  - 2 direct neighbours of the trader with a simple fence between the captive birds
  - 1 neighbour across the street with captive bird exchanges with one of the above direct neighbours
  - Preventive culling in these 3 hobby holdings
- Not a lot of trade, only to hobbyists
- No secondary outbreaks up until now
- Epidemiological investigation still ongoing
- Origin: most likely via wild birds



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

	Protection zone (3 km)	Surveillance zone (10 km)
Establishments in the zones	1 commercial poultry farm No egg packing station No hatchery No slaughterhouse	15 commercial poultry farms 1 egg packing station 1 hatchery (small capacity for ratite eggs) No slaughterhouse
Transport	Forbidden (poultry, captive birds and hatching eggs) Not applicable to transit (on main roads without unloading or stopping)	
Measures for professionals and hobby holders	For poultry <u>and</u> captive birds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confinement or protection is mandatory (except ratites)</li> <li>- Drinking and feeding inside or protected from contact with wild birds</li> <li>- Watering with surface water/rainwater is forbidden (except if treated to inactivate viruses)</li> <li>- Forbidden of all gathering (fairs, markets, expositions...)</li> <li>- <b>Increase vigilance</b> : Increase of morbidity/mortality or decrease of production must be immediately notify to FASFC</li> </ul>	
Measures for non-registered hobby holders	Reinforced biosecurity (visitors ban, specific clothing, respect biosecurity measures)	/

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

	Protection zone (3 km)	Surveillance zone (10 km)
Measures for professional establishment (holdings, hatcheries and egg packing stations)	Clinical examination by the vet within 24 h (mandatory report of the visit to FASFC) + in case of health problems or anomalies in the production parameters	Clinical examination by the vet in case of health problems or anomalies in the production parameters
	<p>Inventory of all poultry/captive 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>	
Foreseen lifting	After 21 days => become a 10 km surveillance zone	After 30 days <b>and</b> favourable monitoring



## Summary of outbreaks in Belgium (2021-2022 season)

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
Vrasene	HPAI H5N1	Captive birds	/	/	/
Meulebeke	HPAI H5N1	Poultry (chicken breeders)	Protection zone (3 km)	30-03-2022	20-04-2022
			Surveillance zone (10 km)	30-03-2022	29-04-2022
Zoutleeuw	HPAI H5N1	Captive birds	Protection zone (3 km)	22-06-2022	13-07-2022*
			Surveillance zone (10 km)	22-06-2022	22-07-2022*

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



# Additional measures on the whole territory

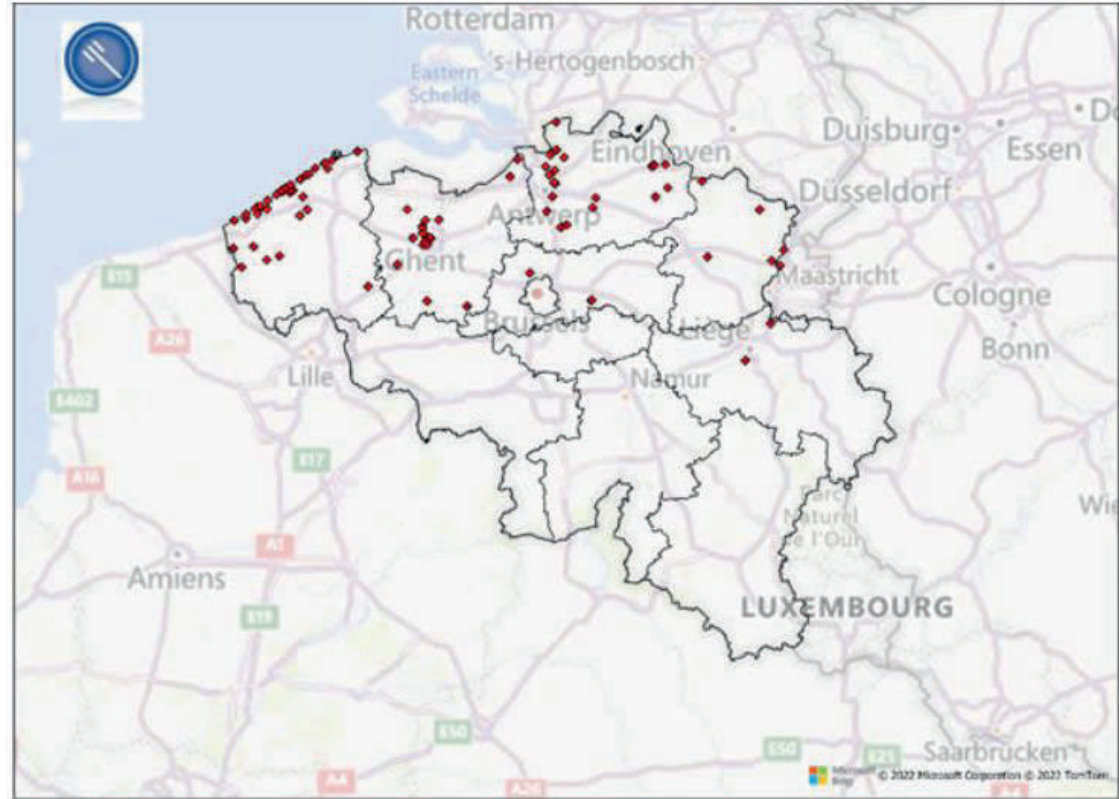
- An increased risk period was declared on 15 November 2021
- Considering the more favourable epidemiological situation, the measures were adapted on 14 May 2022
- Measures still applicable throughout Belgium
  - Confinement of poultry for professional farmers and captive birds from private keepers is no longer mandatory but recommended (e.g. with nets).
  - All poultry and other birds must be fed indoors (or under nets)
  - Thinning of broilers only under specific conditions determined by the FASFC
  - **Increased biosecurity**
  - **Increased vigilance**
- Throughout the year, gatherings of poultry and captive birds are also forbidden except for non-commercial gatherings of captive birds and public captive birds market organised by a local authority and only under specific conditions





# Outbreak of HPAI in wild birds

- 100 HPAI cases from 11 November 2021 to 5 July 2022
- 60 different sites
- 6 provinces: West Flanders, Eastern Flanders, Antwerp, Flemish Brabant, Limburg and Liege
- New cases are still confirmed every week



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

