



## Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in Belgium

### *Situation and measures in place*



AHW PAFF, 6-7 April 2022

# Zones and outbreaks in Belgium

## 2 H5N1 outbreaks since last meeting

- Vrasene : captive birds
  - Less than 50 animals and risk assessment -> No zones delimited
- Meulebeke: commercial poultry farm
  - 3 and 10 km zone delimited



## Summary of outbreaks in Belgium

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*

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



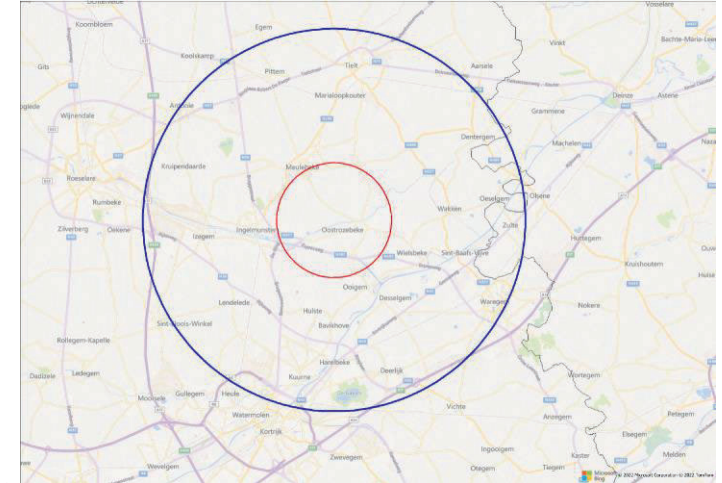
# Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in captive bird Vrasene

- Date of confirmation: 11th March 2022
- Vrasene: Province of East Flanders
- Hobby holder with 44 captive birds (guinea fowl, turkeys, chickens, quails, geese and ducks)
- Increase of mortality in guinea fowl, turkeys, chickens and quails
- Clinical signs: Digestive (diarrhea) and neurological (torticollis)
- Source: wild bird suspected as the animals were not fully protected from contact with wildlife
- Risk assessment performed:
  - taking into account:
    - type and the small size of the establishment (hobby holder with only 44 captive birds)
    - localisation (hobby holder isolated and without contacts)
    - increased risk period still implemented in Belgium for professional and hobby holders
    - intensive surveillance still in force for poultry, captive birds and wild birds
  - Conclusion: measures only applied in the establishment and no zoning established



# Outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in poultry Meulebeke

- Date of confirmation: 30th March 2022
- Meulebeke: Province of West Flanders
- Commercial farm with 18,859 chicken breeders
- Increased mortality
- Clinical signs: severe decrease in food intake and some animals showing tremors and opisthotonus
- Autopsy: spot bleedings in various organs and fat tissues, swollen kidneys
- Possible source:
  - Establishment located near a wild bird forage area
  - First sign detected near the ventilation system but animals with respiratory problems will search for the most ventilated areas
  - Presence of vermin in and around the establishment (passive carrier)
- Protection zone (3 km) and surveillance zone (10 km) established



# Outbreak of HPAI H5N1

## Measures in the outbreaks

- Culling of all poultry and captive birds in the 2 outbreaks
- Litter removed, cleaning and disinfection
- Protocol for poultry restocking with at least 3-week sanitary vacuum
  - Repopulation only after approval by the FASFC





# Protection (3 km) and Surveillance (10 km) zones Around the outbreak in Meulebeke

	Protection zone (3 km)	Surveillance zone (10 km)
<b>Establishments in the zones</b>	9 commercial poultry farms No slaughterhouse No hatchery No egg packing station	63 commercial poultry farms 2 slaughterhouses 3 hatcheries 6 egg packing stations
<b>Transport</b>	Forbidden (poultry, hobby poultry, birds and hatching eggs) Not applicable to transit (on main roads without unloading or stopping)	
<b>Measures for professionals and hobby holders</b>	Poultry and captive birds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forbidden of all gathering of poultry and captive birds (fairs, markets, expositions...)</li> <li>- <b>Increased vigilance</b> : Increase of morbidity/mortality or decrease of production must be immediately notify to FASFC</li> </ul>	
<b>Measures for non-registered hobby holders</b>	Reinforced biosecurity (visitors ban, specific clothing, respect biosecurity measures)	



# Protection (3 km) and Surveillance (10 km) zones Around the outbreak in Meulebeke

	Protection zone (3 km)	Surveillance zone (10 km)
<b>Measures for professional establishment (holdings, hatcheries and egg packing stations)</b>	Clinical examination by the vet within 24 h (mandatory report of the visit to FASFC) and after in case of symptoms.	Clinical examination by the vet in case of symptoms
	<p>Inventory of all poultry/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>	





# Protection (3 km) and Surveillance (10 km) zones Around the outbreak in Meulebeke

	Protection zone (3 km)	Surveillance zone (10 km)
Additional measures for slaughterhouses and hatcheries	<i>NA (no slaughterhouse or hatchery)</i>	<p><u>Slaughterhouses</u>: can continue activities via corridor for poultry from outside the zone and, after authorisation, from inside the zones (flows separation)</p> <p><u>Hatcheries</u>: can continue activities via corridor for hatching eggs from outside the zone and send day-old chicks or hatching eggs to holdings outside the zones</p>
	<b>Derogation allowed from 04.04.2022</b>	
	<u>Hatching eggs</u> may be transferred to hatchery for hatching or to egg breaking plant for processing	<p><u>Hatching eggs</u> may be transferred to hatchery for hatching</p> <p><u>Slaughter poultry</u> may be removed to slaughterhouse (logistical slaughter)</p>
Foreseen lifting	After 21 days => become a 10 km surveillance zone	After 30 days <b>and</b> favourable monitoring



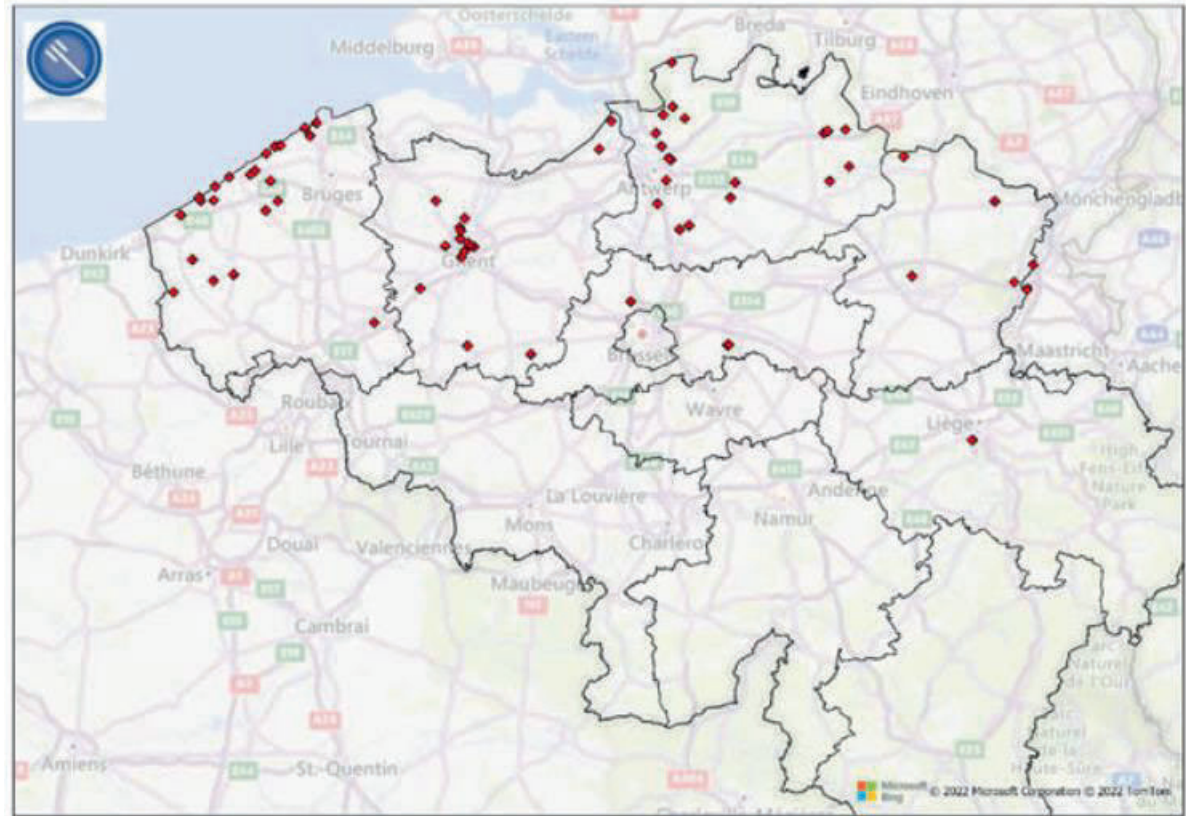
# Additional measures on the whole territory – Increased risk period

- Increased risk period declared on 15 November 2021
  - Confinement or protection of all poultry and captive birds (except ratites)
  - Drinking and feeding inside or protected
  - Watering of poultry and captive birds with surface water/rainwater is forbidden (except if treated to inactivate viruses)
  - Thinning of broilers only under specific conditions determined by the FASFC
  - Gatherings of poultry and captive birds are forbidden except for other captive birds non-commercial gatherings
  - **Increased daily biosecurity**
  - **Increased vigilance**



# Outbreak of HPAI in wild birds

- 78 cases since the 11 November 2021
- 46 H5N1 and 6 H5NX HPAI
- 52 different sites
- 6 provinces: West Flanders, East Flanders, Antwerp, Flemish Brabant, Limburg and Liege



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 depth and movement. The text "Thank you for your attention" is centered over the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Thank you for your attention

