About this dossier

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Eradication: Final report for Avian Influenza 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).

This form is for information only, no submission possible.

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Country code: BE

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.

1) Sampling of domestic poultry

The sampling scheme for the survey in domestic poultry is based on the guidelines of the document SANCO/10268/2006 revision 5, Decision 2010/367/CE and a risk analysis performed by the national reference laboratory and its epidemiological unit. The sampling is split up by province (NUTS 2 code). Only registered poultry holdings are sampled.

Sampling is performed according to the principles laid out in the programme, either by veterinarians of the Belgian Food agency in the case of ducks, geese, turkeys, laying hens, game fowl, guinea fowl and pigeons, or by technicians and veterinarians of the regional animal health laboratories in the case of breeder chickens. Holdings empty at the time of the sampling or holdings keeping poultry under 13 weeks of age (the minimal age to be sampled) are excluded.

The samples consist in:
- in the case of ducks and geese: 20 blood samples per holding/flock.
- in the case of other poultry: 10 blood samples per holding/flock.
- in the case of traders of hobby poultry: 20 blood samples per holding/flock.

When distinct flocks are present on a holding, each flock is sampled separately and the number of samples is adjusted accordingly.

In case of unfavorable serological results, additional sampling of the holding is performed, consisting in a further sample of 60 animals for analysis with RT-PCR and/or virus isolation assays and possibly with ELISA and/or haemagglutinin inhibition assays.

2) Sampling of wild birds

The sampling of wild birds consists both in passive and active monitoring as described in the program.

Regarding the passive monitoring, not only dead birds meeting certain criteria and thus regarded as suspicious are analyzed, but also wild birds harvested by bird refuges and dying there. The carcasses of the dead birds are sent to the national reference laboratory, either by the regional authority examining the suspicion or the bird refuge collecting the sick or moribund birds.

Regarding the active monitoring, live birds caught at ringing activities by ornithologists are swabbed (cloaca).

3) Analysis

All samples are analyzed at the AI national reference laboratory.

Blood samples of domestic poultry are analyzed using either the ELISA or the haemagglutinin inhibition assay for H5 and H7. Since the ELISA is only validated for use in chicken, turkeys, ducks and geese, blood samples of other species are analyzed using the haemagglutinin inhibition (HI) assay, following the procedures described by the European legislation and based on strains supplied by the community reference lab. The haemagglutinin inhibition assay is also used as a confirmatory assay in case of an unfavorable or undecided ELISA.

All carcasses of dead wild birds are autopsied to detect post mortem indications of an AI infection and to collect the necessary tissue samples for analysis. The tissue samples are analyzed for virus presence using molecular detection (RT-PCR) and/or virus isolation. All cloacal swabs from live wild birds are analyzed using molecular detection (RT-PCR) and/or virus isolation.

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

1) Results of the survey in poultry

The results of all sampling performed in 2019 are summarized in this report and were registered in the central database of the EFSA using the prescribed web interface.

In 2019, 7,629 birds on 685 poultry holdings were sampled, resulting in 7,379 ELISA and 1,487 haemagglutinin inhibition assays (480 first line double assays and 1,007 confirmatory assays following an undecided or unfavorable ELISA results) performed.

In 2 holdings, one with geese and one of a trader of hobby poultry, animals were tested positive for H5 with the haemagglutinin inhibition assay. Further samples of 60 animals in these 2 holdings were analyzed, resulting in an additional 42 RT-PCR pools. All results were negative.

5) Results of the survey in wild birds

The results are summarized in this report and were registered in the central database of the EFSA using the prescribed web interface.

Regarding the passive surveillance, a total of 189 wild birds were collected and analyzed. All samples were tested with a RT-PCR. In some’s cases, sampled were pooled. A total of 101 RT-PCR were performed. All results were negative.

Regarding the active surveillance, a total of 1,064 birds were sampled and analyzed with RT-PCR. Sampled were pooled. In addition, virus isolation assays (pool) were performed on 118 birds to confirm an undecided or unfavorable RT-PCR. LPAI virus could be demonstrated in 49 birds. When virus could be isolated, birds were found infected with LPAI viruses of the types H3, H4, H5 and H7.

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 attachement

feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.

See also point 1.2 for results on serotypes involved: wild birds were found infected with LPAI viruses of the types H3, H4, H5 and H7.

2. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

VERY IMPORTANT: Please fill out the following tables with figures corresponding to measures performed during the implementing period (1/1 to 31/12).
In the column "Total number of samples taken", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI-H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted).

Table A - POULTRY HOLDINGS SAMPLED : SEROLOGICAL INVESTIGATION ACCORDING TO ANNEX I TO COMMISSION DECISION 2010/367/EU

Poultry category	NUTS2 Code	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples taken	Methods of laboratory analysis	Total number of tests performed per method
Chicken breeders	BE21	59	52	10	520	ELISA test	520
Chicken breeders	BE21	59	52	10	0	HI test for H5	12
Chicken breeders	BE21	59	52	10	0	HI test for H7	12
Chicken breeders	BE22	9	9	10	90	ELISA test	90
Chicken breeders	BE23	29	22	10	220	ELISA test	220
Chicken breeders	BE23	29	22	10	0	HI test for H5	3
Chicken breeders	BE23	29	22	10	0	HI test for H7	3
Chicken breeders	BE25	81	50	10	500	ELISA test	500
Chicken breeders	BE25	81	50	10	0	HI test for H5	6
Chicken breeders	BE25	81	50	10	0	HI test for H7	6
Chicken breeders	BE31	3	3	10	30	ELISA test	30
Chicken breeders	BE31	3	3	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Chicken breeders	BE31	3	3	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Chicken breeders	BE32	12	1	10	10	ELISA test	10
Chicken breeders	BE33	6	6	10	60	ELISA test	60
Chicken breeders	BE33	6	6	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Chicken breeders	BE33	6	6	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE22	5	3	10	30	HI test for H5	30
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE22	5	3	10	0	HI test for H7	30
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE23	4	5	10	50	HI test for H5	50
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE23	4	5	10	0	HI test for H7	50
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE25	5	6	10	60	HI test for H5	60
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE25	5	6	10	0	HI test for H7	60
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE32	4	2	10	20	HI test for H5	20
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE32	4	2	10	0	HI test for H7	20
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE33	1	3	10	30	HI test for H5	30
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	BE33	1	3	10	0	HI test for H7	30
Fattening ducks	BE21	2	2	20	40	ELISA test	40
Fattening ducks	BE21	2	2	20	0	HI test for H5	76
Fattening ducks	BE21	2	2	20	0	HI test for H7	38
Fattening ducks	BE23	5	3	20	90	ELISA test	90

Fattening ducks	BE25	2	5	20	100	ELISA test	100
Fattening ducks	BE25	2	5	20	0	HI test for H5	84
Fattening ducks	BE25	2	5	20	0	HI test for H7	42
Fattening ducks	BE32	5	3	20	60	ELISA test	60
Fattening ducks	BE32	5	3	20	0	HI test for H5	2
Fattening ducks	BE32	5	3	20	0	HI test for H7	1
Fattening ducks	BE33	4	2	20	40	ELISA test	40
Fattening ducks	BE35	4	4	20	80	ELISA test	80
Fattening ducks	BE35	4	4	20	0	HI test for H5	11
Fattening ducks	BE35	4	4	20	0	HI test for H7	6
Fattening turkeys	BE21	2	2	10	20	ELISA test	20
Fattening turkeys	BE23	4	4	10	40	ELISA test	40
Fattening turkeys	BE25	26	43	10	430	ELISA test	430
Fattening turkeys	BE25	26	43	10	0	HI test for H5	56
Fattening turkeys	BE25	26	43	10	0	HI test for H7	44
Geese breeders	BE25	1	1	20	20	ELISA test	20
Geese breeders	BE25	1	1	20	0	HI test for H5	36
Geese breeders	BE25	1	1	20	0	HI test for H7	18
Geese breeders	BE25	1	1	60	60	PCR test	20
Free range laying hens	BE21	17	48	10	520	ELISA test	520
Free range laying hens	BE21	17	48	10	0	HI test for H5	24
Free range laying hens	BE21	17	48	10	0	HI test for H7	24
Free range laying hens	BE22	10	14	10	140	ELISA test	140
Free range laying hens	BE22	10	14	10	0	HI test for H5	6
Free range laying hens	BE22	10	14	10	0	HI test for H7	6
Free range laying hens	BE23	9	21	10	210	ELISA test	210
Free range laying hens	BE23	9	21	10	0	HI test for H5	52
Free range laying hens	BE23	9	21	10	0	HI test for H7	52
Free range laying hens	BE24	6	8	10	78	ELISA test	78
Free range laying hens	BE24	6	8	10	0	HI test for H5	11
Free range laying hens	BE24	6	8	10	0	HI test for H7	11
Free range laying hens	BE25	17	35	10	380	ELISA test	380
Free range laying hens	BE25	17	35	10	0	HI test for H5	19
Free range laying hens	BE25	17	35	10	0	HI test for H7	19
Free range laying hens	BE31	2	1	10	10	ELISA test	10
Free range laying hens	BE32	19	21	10	210	ELISA test	210
Free range laying hens	BE32	19	21	10	0	HI test for H5	6
Free range laying hens	BE32	19	21	10	0	HI test for H7	6
Free range laying hens	BE33	8	15	10	150	ELISA test	150
Free range laying hens	BE33	8	15	10	0	HI test for H5	4
Free range laying hens	BE33	8	15	10	0	HI test for H7	4
Free range laying hens	BE34	14	18	10	180	ELISA test	180
Free range laying hens	BE34	14	18	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Free range laying hens	BE34	14	18	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Free range laying hens	BE35	21	40	10	400	ELISA test	400
Free range laying hens	BE35	21	40	10	0	HI test for H5	8
Free range laying hens	BE35	21	40	10	0	HI test for H7	8
Laying hens	BE21	29	48	10	480	ELISA test	480
Laying hens	BE21	29	48	10	0	HI test for H5	5
Laying hens	BE21	29	48	10	0	HI test for H7	5

Laying hens	BE22	19	27	10	280	ELISA test	280
Laying hens	BE22	19	27	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Laying hens	BE22	19	27	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Laying hens	BE23	23	23	10	230	ELISA test	230
Laying hens	BE23	23	23	10	0	HI test for H5	5
Laying hens	BE23	23	23	10	0	HI test for H7	5
Laying hens	BE25	43	61	10	620	ELISA test	620
Laying hens	BE25	43	61	10	0	HI test for H5	16
Laying hens	BE25	43	61	10	0	HI test for H7	16
Laying hens	BE31	2	2	10	20	ELISA test	20
Laying hens	BE32	5	5	10	50	ELISA test	50
Laying hens	BE33	9	9	10	90	ELISA test	90
Laying hens	BE33	9	9	10	0	HI test for H5	1
Laying hens	BE33	9	9	10	0	HI test for H7	1
Laying hens	BE34	4	3	10	30	ELISA test	30
Laying hens	BE35	3	2	10	30	ELISA test	30
Laying hens	BE35	3	2	10	0	HI test for H5	5
Laying hens	BE35	3	2	10	0	HI test for H7	5
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE21	29	13	20	260	ELISA test	260
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE21	29	13	20	0	HI test for H5	10
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE21	29	13	20	0	HI test for H7	10
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE22	15	6	20	120	ELISA test	120
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE22	15	6	20	0	HI test for H5	7
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE22	15	6	20	0	HI test for H7	7
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE23	16	5	20	70	ELISA test	70
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE23	16	5	20	0	HI test for H5	31
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE23	16	5	20	0	HI test for H7	21
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE24	18	3	20	50	ELISA test	50
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE24	18	3	20	0	HI test for H5	4
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE24	18	3	20	0	HI test for H7	4
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE25	32	12	20	170	ELISA test	170
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE25	32	12	20	60	HI test for H5	122
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE25	32	12	20	0	HI test for H7	81
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE25	32	1	60	60	PCR test	22
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE31	5	1	20	20	ELISA test	20
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE31	5	1	20	0	HI test for H5	1
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE31	5	1	20	0	HI test for H7	1
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE33	11	8	20	141	ELISA test	141
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE33	11	8	20	0	HI test for H5	7
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE33	11	8	20	0	HI test for H7	7
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE35	9	5	20	90	ELISA test	90
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE35	9	5	20	0	HI test for H5	3
Backyard flocks (optional)	BE35	9	5	20	0	HI test for H7	3
Total		1,920	1,974	1,750	7,749	**Methods of laboratory analysis**	**Total number of tests**
						Total - ELISA test	7,379
						Total - HI test for H5	827
						Total - HI test for H7	660
						Total - PCR test	42

Table B - WILD BIRDS : INVESTIGATION ACCORDING TO THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA IN WILD BIRDS SET OUT IN ANNEX II TO DECISION 2010/367/EU

NUTS 2 Code	Total number of wild birds sampled for passive surveillance	Number of PCR tests done for passive surveillance	Number of virus isolation tests for passive surveillance
Belgium	189	101	0
Total	189	101	0

Table C - POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS : NUMBER OF OUTBREAKS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA DETECTED DURING THE YEAR

	Domestic birds	Wild birds
Nr of HPAI outbreaks	0	0
Nr of LPAI outbreaks	0	0

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION