

# **FBCC Reportable/Notifiable Disease Summary**

## **December 2021**

### **Ontario**

#### **Infectious Laryngotracheitis(ILT) cases – exhibition flock and commercial broiler flock**

In early December, pheasants, and peafowl in a small exhibition flock near Colborne in southern Northumberland County, were diagnosed with ILT. [A 5 km Biosecurity Advisory Area](#), established by the FBCC remains in place. No commercial flocks are in the vicinity. The Biosecurity Advisory established in mid-November for Arnprior area of Renfrew County has now been [lifted](#).

In mid- December, ILT was diagnosed in a flock of 17,000 heavy roaster chickens [west of Smithville in Niagara region](#). A 10 km radius [Biosecurity Advisory](#) Area has been established. Recovery efforts at the farm are nearing completion. FBCC has coordinated weekly health monitoring calls to the 74 commercial poultry farms in the Area. There are also 267 registered small flocks in the area. No new infections have appeared to date. One year ago, a different strain of ILT infected 7 commercial poultry farms just east of this area.

**[The FBCC/Farm Health Guardian joint geo-fencing project](#) involving all sectors of the Niagara poultry industry is now operational. The purpose is to enhance biosecurity and control disease spread. Farmers and industry stakeholders in Niagara area who have not yet signed up should contact [lorraine@farmhealthguardian.com](mailto:lorraine@farmhealthguardian.com).**

#### **Pigeon Paramyxovirus (PPMV-1)**

In response to recent diagnosis of Pigeon Paramyxovirus-1 in two Ontario racing pigeon flocks, OMAFRA released a [Veterinary Advisory on Newcastle Disease](#). The Canadian Food Inspection Agency imposed movement controls on each of the premises until 60 days after the last clinical signs followed by cleaning and disinfection. The highly infectious nature of this virus combined with similar clinical signs to Avian Influenza is of concern. Fortunately, there are no commercial poultry flocks in either vicinity.

### **Newfoundland & Labrador- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**

On December 20, the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\) confirmed the presence of HPAI, subtype H5N1](#), at a 419-bird multi-species exhibition premises on the Avalon Peninsula. A mortality of 86% was reported. Surviving birds were culled. The premises was quarantined, and movement control measures and enhanced biosecurity imposed on farms within a 10 km zone. Because this exhibition farm does not produce birds for sale, Canada's disease-free status should be maintained. The [CFIA is reminding Canadian poultry owners](#) to take an active role in protecting their flocks by employing strict biosecurity measures on their property and immediately reporting any signs of illness to their veterinarian.

This is the same H5N1 strain (clade 2.3.4.4b) that is circulating in Europe. According to an [OFFLU](#) statement, this is the first time that this clade has been detected in the Americas. This is cause for concern for wild birds, zoological collections, and poultry in the Americas.

This is the first HPAI case reported in Canada since the 2015 outbreak in Ontario.

[On Dec. 31, CBC reported H5N1 avian influenza, had been confirmed in wild birds](#) in areas like Bowring Park, Quidi Vidi Lake of St. John's. It is believed that a major North Atlantic storm

that hit this area in early October may have swept along migrating waterfowl from northern Europe. Two novel European geese species have been identified.

It is also worth noting, wild bird Avian Influenza surveillance conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative in partnership with government agencies has reported an increase in Ontario this year in wild birds carrying the Influenza A virus, including the H5 strain. In Ontario, out of 416 live wild birds tested, 10% were H5 +ve and 27% were positive for Influenza A in general. None of these birds were clinically ill.

OMAFRA's Chief Veterinarian issued an Avian Influenza [Industry Update for Avian Influenza](#) September 1.

## **Avian Influenza Global Summary**

Reporting delays by several countries complicates the generation of timely and accurate reports. [Summary data compiled by FBCC](#) from OIE, IZSVEE, national authorities as well as blogs and media confirm that Europe and Asia are experiencing a similar seasonal trend to last year.

A total of 40 countries have experienced High Path AI outbreaks this fall. Almost all cases have been H5N1. Since September, close to 35 million birds have been culled due to outbreaks in 887 premises. 434 of these outbreaks occurred in December. Countries hit hardest to date are Italy (294), Hungary (83), UK (73), Poland (61), Germany (42) and France (34). South Korea, Japan and Taiwan have lost 50, 25 and 12 flocks respectively.

Some 989 wild birds in Europe have been diagnosed with HPAI since Oct 1. The weekly numbers peaked in mid to late November. However, outbreaks in poultry continue to escalate. A disproportionate number of the infected premises have been free range poultry. Flock housing orders and appeals for heightened biosecurity seem insufficient to prevent incursion of this virus into commercial flocks. The European Food Safety Authority in its December 20 report [Avian influenza overview September – December 2021](#) expressed “concerns about the capacity of current applied biosecurity measures to prevent virus introduction in commercial operations..... Short-term preparedness and medium to long term prevention strategies, including revising and reinforcing biosecurity measures, reduction of the density of commercial poultry farms and possible appropriate vaccination strategies, should be implemented”.

### **Belgium**

In early December H5N1 was diagnosed in 2 commercial chicken flocks in Alveringem, Veurne in northwest Belgium near the coast and in Ravels, Turnhout in the north of the country.

### **Bulgaria**

After the late November outbreak in a pheasant hunting area in Plovdiv area there have been 2 small flocks and a large layer/pullet farm infected with H5 in the same general area of southwest Bulgaria. Media has reported that 7000 ducks in an “*industrial duck for cuddle*” site in Stara Zagora region.

### **Czech Republic**

In addition to 4 infected small flocks this month, a 188,000-bird layer flock in Libotenice, 60 km north of Prague is being culled due to H5N1 outbreak. Approximately one million stored eggs will be destroyed.

### **Denmark and the Faroe Islands**

A 6000-game bird breeding operation north of Vyborg in central north Denmark has been culled due to H5N1. In addition, the virus has been detected in 2 dead sea birds on the Faroe Islands during

September. This remote self governing island archipelago is in the North Atlantic Ocean, between Scotland and Iceland and is part of the Kingdom of Denmark.

### **France**

France has culled 600,000 to 650,000 chickens, ducks, and other poultry over the past month to contain the fourth major HPAI outbreak in the country since 2015. There have been 26 outbreaks at commercial farms; initially at chicken breeder and turkey flocks. On Dec. 16 the disease struck the commercial foie gras duck farms, in the southwest. In addition, there have been outbreaks at small farms in the north and at a zoo in the southeast. Last winter more than 500 farms in this same area saw mass infections that prompted the culling of some 3.5 million birds.

### **Germany**

This month 24 more premises were struck by the H5N1 virus. Several layers and duck flocks (113692 birds) in North Rhine-Westphalia were reported on Dec 3. Every day more cases in layers, turkeys and some chickens are reported; most recently in Mecklenburg- Vorpommern, Niedersachsen, Nordrhein Westfalen and other areas.

### **Hungary**

The outbreak in Hungary continues aggressively with 28 new cases reported in the last 2 weeks. There have been over 2.1 million birds culled in last 2 months. In addition to 133305 ducks culled in Nyírbátor, there were 14 premises in Bacs-Kiskun, nine in Csongrad, four in Hajdu-Bihar, and one in Bekes. All these counties adjoin in the south and east of the country. The majority were raising ducks or geese.

### **Ireland**

Total of 6 commercial flocks (layers, turkeys, and ducks) with 211,000 birds culled so far this season. Outbreaks have occurred in counties of Monaghan and Cavan where two control zones extend into Northern Ireland.

### **Italy**

On Dec. 31, IZSve reported 171 new infected farms this month for total of 294 since November. According to OIE reports, some 13.3 million birds have been culled. Almost all infected flocks are within a 125 km cluster in southwest Verona province and spreading into southeast Lombardia. Most have been infected with H5N1, although several are typed only as H5. With few exceptions, outbreaks have hit large commercial poultry units including laying hens, broilers, meat turkeys, and other poultry types.

### **Netherlands**

Early in December, a farm with 58,789 poultry in the eastern province of Overijssel was infected with H5N1: on Dec 20 a second farm of 20,760 poultry. In addition, there were 2 infected captive flocks.

### **Poland**

The outbreak continues in Poland with 34 infected flocks this month. Total of 1.54 million birds lost to date this fall. Almost all outbreaks involved commercial flocks.

### **Portugal**

A small flock of 79 birds was diagnosed with H5N1 on Dec 2 on west coast and a 18,200-bird turkey flock in Obidos near the western coast. These are the first cases reported in Portugal.

### **Slovenia**

On Dec 27, Slovenia reported its first outbreak at a 112-bird mixed flock in the east of the country.

### **Sweden**

First cases of H5N1 have been detected in Sweden. Four outbreaks involved a small mixed flock followed up by 2 turkey and one parent breeder operation. A total of 42,079 birds were culled.

### **Ukraine**

A small flock of 155 birds with H5 in Heroiske, Khersan on the Black Sea coast. last case of HPAI was at the end of April this year.

## **UK**

The UK is experiencing its largest ever avian influenza outbreak. A total of 73 flocks have been infected with H5N1 since the end of October. There have been 60 cases in England, 5 in Scotland, 5 in Northern Ireland and 3 in Wales. Only 48 cases (1.39 million birds) have been reported to the OIE so far. One third of these reported cases involve free range commercial layer flocks. The British Free Range Egg Producers Association claimed that about 1.7 million layers had been culled; more than half listed as “free range”. For further details of the UK situation, refer to [DEFRA's Dec. 20 High Path AI Update](#).

## **Russia**

After a six-month hiatus, HPAI has returned to the Stavropol region, which is in the North Caucasus federal district of Russia between Black and Caspian Sea. A flock of 213,020 birds in Grachevskaya infected with H5 virus. In addition, a 424,217-bird turkey flock in the Rostov area and a small flock in Volga district. Total of 34 farms (5 million birds) have been infected during this fall season.

## **Israel**

The government has declared a state of emergency due to egg shortages because of HPAI outbreaks in 4 large layer flocks requiring the culling of 573,500 birds.

Preceding these outbreaks was the mass deaths of 5400 Eurasian cranes out of the 30,000 wintering at the Hula Lake Nature Reserve in northern Israel due to an outbreak of HPAI H5N1. This is apparently one of the world's premier bird sanctuaries. Carcasses of pelicans and egrets have also been found. Israel is on a migration route that some 500,000 birds pass twice a year between Africa and Asia. Some 707,255 birds have been lost in 10 flocks over the fall.

## **Benin**

A 5,661-bird flock with 100% mortality was diagnosed with H5N1 on the coast near Nigeria. Illegal bird movement is suspected.

## **Nigeria**

Several H5N1 infected flocks: 22 in Sept. 21 in Oct. and 3 in November to date involving 322,000 birds. Since April last year Nigeria has experienced 110 outbreaks resulting in loss of close to 1.2 million birds.

## **South Africa**

Eighteen new H5N1 outbreaks (Nov. 8-Dec. 8) in three provinces: Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape. There have been 26 cases reported since Sept. 1 involving more than 340,000 birds.

Since April 2021 more than 3.7 million birds, primarily layers have been culled. In addition, since last May some 39,000 wild birds, primarily endangered Cape Cormorants have perished with this disease.

## **India**

Six H5N1 outbreaks involving 64,132 birds (mostly ducks) were reported this month in Kerala province. Before this, H5N8 virus was found in a murder of 48 crows in a mutton market south of Bhopal.

## **Pakistan**

In late November, 3 flocks (6500 birds) infected with HPAI H5 in Peshawar, near the Afghanistan border in the northwest. A small flock of 200 birds was also diagnosed in Hingle Noor Baz, Bannu about 150 km to the south-west.

## **South Korea**

South Korea has reported HPAI H5N1 in 36 flocks in November and 14 in December. A total of 6,390,000 birds lost, mostly egg layers, although a quail farm and a duck farm were also infected.

## **Japan**

A report to the OIE indicates 25 HPAI cases this season, (14 in November and 11 in December), almost equal numbers of H5N1 and H5N8. Total of 1,566,520 birds lost.

## **Taiwan**

A report to the OIE indicates 3 flocks in Nov and 6 in Dec were culled due to HPAI H5N2 (66,408 birds).