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Croatia

Poultry and Products

Croatia Confirms H5 Avian Influenza

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Report Highlights:

On October 19, the Croatian Veterinary authorities detected the avian influenza virus H5 in six dead swans found at the Grudnjak fish-breeding farm. The virus samples have been sent to the reference laboratory for avian influenza in Weybridge, Great Britain to identify the virus strain. Until the results are known, Croatia has banned all garden chicken sales and wild bird hunting; is requiring mandatory housing of all poultry; and is maintaining more stringent hygienic and bio-safety measures on all poultry production facilities including more stringent disinfection measures for transportation vehicles. This weekend Croatian veterinary authorities destroyed 10,000 poultry at the Grudnjak fish-breeding farm with total estimated damages at around \$162,946. Poultry export trade losses are estimated at \$750,000 per month. Poultry production is one of the few sectors where Croatia enjoys a trade surplus.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Vienna [AU1]
[HR]

On October 19, the Croatian Veterinary authorities detected the avian influenza virus H5 in six dead swans found at the Grudnjak fish-breeding farm in eastern Croatia. The virus samples have been sent to the reference laboratory for avian influenza in Weybridge, Great Britain for further testing. It is still not known whether the strain is the deadly H5N1 virus. Until the results are certain, Croatia will conduct the following measures (as is the case for a H5N1 finding) nation-wide:

- All poultry sales (except for poultry from intensive production that is slaughtered in registered slaughterhouses) are banned
- Mandatory housing of poultry
- Wild bird hunting is banned
- More stringent disinfection measures for transport vehicles that are used to transport animals, especially poultry, from production facilities to slaughterhouses
- Maintenance of stringent hygienic conditions and bio-safety measures on all poultry production facilities

In the parameter of 20 km from the Grudnjak fish breeding farm:

- All poultry and wild bird trade is banned
- All trade of poultry products (meat, meat products, eggs) is banned
- No health certificates for any animal can be issued
- All poultry slaughter for personal use is banned
- All farms (large and small) with poultry production must be registered
- The health conditions on all farms will be monitored daily
- Mandatory reporting to the veterinary authorities of any changes in poultry health
- All animal fairs in a parameter of 20 km are banned

At the Grudnjak fish breeding farm:

- No unauthorized personnel are allowed on the farm
- Mandatory disinfection-baths at all farm entrances and farm exits are in use
- Euthanasia and destruction of the swan flock (disease carrier) has taken place

This weekend Croatian Veterinary Authorities destroyed 10,000 poultry at the Grudnjak fish-breeding farm. Total estimated damages for local farmers in the Grudnjak area are around \$162,946 USD (1 million Kona). Poultry export trade losses are estimated at \$750,000 per month. Poultry production is one of the few sectors where Croatia enjoys a trade surplus.