



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 3/5/2009

GAIN Report Number: JA9021

Japan

Poultry and Products

H7N6 Avian Influenza Outbreak in Commercial Quail Flocks

2009

Approved by:

Paul Spencer
Tokyo

Prepared by:

Dr. Mark Prescott & Toby Wolf

Report Highlights: An H7N6 avian influenza outbreak in Japan is not raising human health concerns but is costly for commercial producers of quail eggs, a popular food. The H7 strain has not been detected in domestic flocks in Japan since 1925. This is the first detection of the H7N6 subtype in Japan.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced February 27 that local officials detected the H7 avian influenza virus during routine testing at a quail farm in Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture. The National Institute of Animal Health confirmed March 1 the presence of H7N6 in samples taken from the quail flock. Although the affected farm reported no increase in mortality among the quail, MAFF and the Aichi prefectural government are culling 260,000 quail on the affected farm and are prohibiting shipment of poultry or poultry products from 23 farms located within five kilometers of the infection site.

The Aichi prefectural government announced March 2 that another farm in the area tested positive for avian influenza virus and confirmed March 4 the H7 strain was present on that farm as well.

Aichi prefecture is one of Japan's leading production centers for quail eggs. The 38 quail farms in the prefecture produce 70 percent of the country's total production. The sixteen farms located in Toyohashi raise approximately 2,890,000 quail.

Aichi Governor Masaaki Kanda appealed to the public to remain calm, noting there is no danger of infection from eating the eggs or the meat of the infected quail.