

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Avian Influenza Returns to Hungary

**Country:** Hungary

**Post:** Budapest

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Pest/Disease Occurrences, Poultry and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

Hungary regained its avian influenza free status on June 10, 2021, but the disease is now back in the country. On November 16, 2021, animal health authorities confirmed the outbreaks of the H5N1 strain of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) at two commercial duck and goose operations in south central Hungary. Control measures are currently in place. However, further cases are expected around the affected localities and in the neighboring counties.

Hungarian authorities detected HPAI outbreaks at two waterfowl operations in Bács-Kiskun County (south central Hungary) on November 15, 2021. One is a duck farm with a population of 38,373, next to the locality of Császártöltés. The other is a goose farm with 620 waterfowl, close to the settlement of Jászszentlászló.

The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) confirmed the outbreaks on November 16, 2021. NRL’s tests verified the presence of the same serotype, the H5N1 strain of HPAI at both operations.

The most likely source of infection is migrating birds because an autopsy of a wild bird, a great white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) found in the neighboring Baranya County, also proved the presence of HPAI a week earlier.

As a part of preventive steps, Hungarian authorities established restrictive protection and enlarged surveillance zones around the infected localities (Figure 1 and 2). Flock depopulation is occurring within the protection zones.

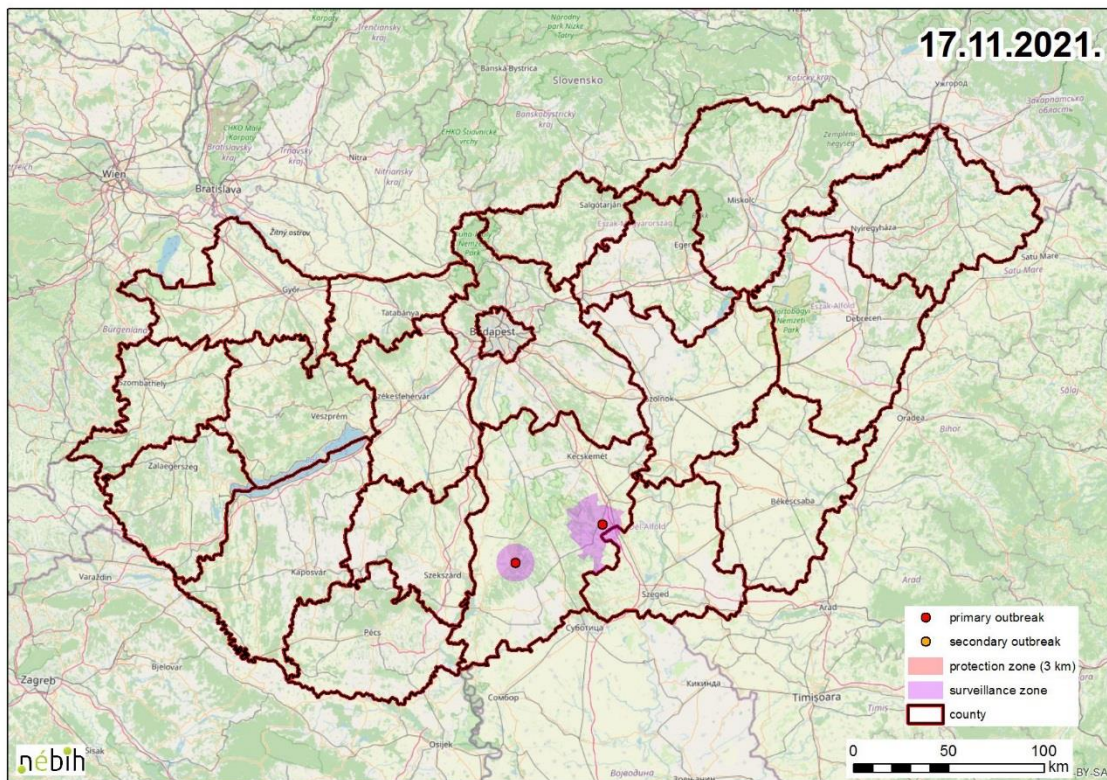


Figure 1: HPAI outbreaks in Hungary, November 17, 2021.  
(Source: National Food Chain Safety Office)

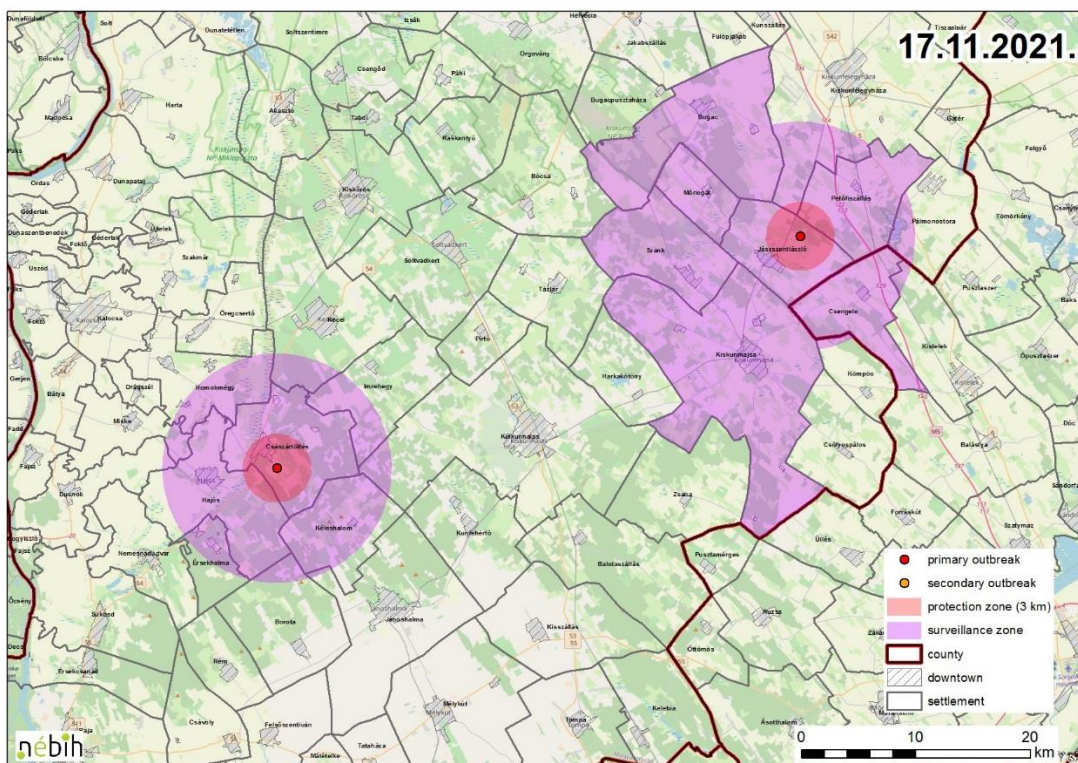


Figure 2: Restrictive protection and enlarged surveillance zones around the infected localities. (Source: National Food Chain Safety Office)

Despite the fact that consecutive HPAI outbreaks at livestock farms resulted in 32 percent decrease in duck inventories and 29 percent decline in goose flocks in 2020, Hungary’s poultry sector has adjusted to these difficulties. It is on a positive trend. The country’s chicken production is less affected by the virus due to the quarantine measures and the closed production system.

Although soaring grain and feed prices make the livestock industry more vulnerable to market movements, poultry meat production is currently the most sustainable among the subsectors. Unlike the swine industry, sales prices have almost completely followed the rise in input costs. HPAI outbreaks and import bans on poultry products introduced by mostly Asian countries barely affect Hungary’s broiler production, as Hungarian exports are mainly destined for EU countries. These member states apply the Article 10.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, which permits the export from non-infected areas.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.