

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** May 12, 2021

**Report Number:** RO2021-0007

**Report Name:** HPAI Confirmed on a Commercial Romanian Poultry Farm

**Country:** Romania

**Post:** Bucharest

**Report Category:** Poultry and Products, Pest/Disease Occurrences

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**Report Highlights:**

Romania's Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health (IDAH) confirmed on May 6, 2021, an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on a commercial poultry farm located in central Romania. The Romanian Veterinary and Food Safety National Authority (ANSVSA) took action to limit the spread. Although HPAI has been detected among wild Romanian birds so far this year, this marks the country's first commercial outbreak of 2021.

**General Information:**

On May 6, IDAH confirmed an HPAI outbreak, sub-type H5N8, in a 180,000-bird commercial poultry farm located in the village of Ungheni in Mores County (central Romania). Romanian veterinary authorities are currently overseeing the culling of live birds, carcass disposal, and disinfection. This marks Romania's first commercial HPAI outbreak, to date, in 2021, although several cases in wild birds were detected earlier in the year. An epidemiological investigation is ongoing to identify the source of infection. On May 9, the virus was also confirmed in a 60-bird backyard flock located in the village of Cristuru-Secuiesc in neighboring Harghita County. This holding had earlier purchased live poultry from the HPAI-affected farm in Ungheni.

Following the outbreaks, ANSVSA implemented HPAI mitigation and control measures to prevent the disease from spreading. Protection and surveillance zones were established around the outbreak sites. Movement restrictions on birds, personnel, vehicles, and feed have been imposed. Additional restrictions were adopted territory-wide for a timeframe of 30 days. For instance, live-bird trading is suspended for all, except commercial poultry companies. This particular measure impacts the backyard sector in which young birds are traded every spring.

Local poultry producers are strengthening their biosecurity measures to limit the spread of the virus and protect their operations. Romania's most-recent previous commercial HPAI outbreak occurred in January 2020 on a single farm with 18,700 laying hens.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.