

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: HPAI Hits Commercial Egg Farm in Western Poland

Country: Poland

Post: Warsaw

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytopsanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On November 25, 2020, Poland's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) announced a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on a large commercial egg farm in western Poland's Wielkopolska Province. Although Poland is the European Union's (EU) largest poultry producer, it is not currently eligible to export poultry meat or eggs to the United States.

General Information

On November 25, 2020, Poland's CVO confirmed that on November 24, 2020, HPAI (H5N8 subtype) was detected on a commercial egg farm with 900,000 laying hens in the Wielkopolska Province's Wolsztyn County. The National Veterinary Research Institute in Puławy also confirmed the detection of HPAI on the farm. Poland's General Veterinary Inspectorate implemented procedures specified under Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 18 December 2007 on the Control of Avian Influenza.

35 cases of HPAI were detected in Poland from December 31, 2019 to April 1, 2020. The last case occurred on April 1, 2020 on a commercial turkey farm. On August 13, Poland regained its HPAI-free status in accordance with OIE recommendations (see *GAIN Poland Declares Freedom from HPAI_Warsaw_Poland_09-01-2020*). As a result of the recent outbreak, Poland will lose its World Organization of Animal Health status as free from HPAI. However, because most non-EU export markets continued to maintain import bans on Polish imposed in early 2020, current levels of exports are not likely to decline significantly.

Although Poland remains the EU's largest poultry producer, the local poultry industry is facing a crisis caused by the COVID-19 and HPAI outbreaks. Almost half of Polish poultry meat is exported. 88 percent of exports are destined for other EU markets, with the remaining 12 percent shipped primarily to Ukraine, Vietnam, and Benin. Polish poultry meat and product exports in 2019 were valued at \$3.4 billion. During the first eight months of 2020, poultry meat and product exports (value terms) decreased by nine percent from the same period in 2019. Poland is not currently eligible to export of poultry meat or eggs to the United States.

Attachments:

No Attachments.