

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: November 16,2020

Report Number: BE2020-0017

Report Name: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Found in Wild Birds in Belgium

Country: Belgium

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Pest/Disease Occurrences, Poultry and Products

Prepared By: Yvan Polet

Approved By: Lisa Allen

Report Highlights:

On November 13, the first birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8 were found on the Belgian coast following earlier finds in neighboring countries. The Belgian government immediately issued measures to avoid infection of domestic birds. Protective measures for the biosecurity of the Belgian commercial poultry sector had already been imposed on November 1.

On Friday, November 13, an animal rescue center in Ostend, on the Belgian seaside, received three sick wild birds from separate coastal places, which proved positive for HPAI H5N8. These separate infections suggest that HPAI may be widespread amongst wild birds as many migrating birds from HPAI infected areas are flying over Belgium. On November 14, the Belgian government expanded its previous measure ordering poultry indoors to all birds kept by Belgian households. This [measure](#) (in Dutch) applies to all backyard poultry and ornamental birds, but also to racing pigeons. All trade, exhibitions and markets for birds are prohibited.

These measures follow orders issued by the Belgian government on October 29th, which were urgently taken to safeguard the Belgian commercial poultry sector after HPAI finds in several neighboring countries like Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The [October 29th measures](#) (in Dutch), which went into place on November 1, called for all professional poultry farmers to keep their poultry indoors.

Attachments:

No Attachments.