

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Poland Declares Freedom from HPAI

Country: Poland

Post: Warsaw

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Prepared By: Piotr Rucinski

Approved By: Jonn Slette

Report Highlights:

On August 13, 2020, Poland's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) declared Poland as free of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) following three months with no HPAI detections. 35 cases of HPAI were detected in Poland from December 31, 2019 to April 1, 2020. This led some export markets outside of the European Union (EU) to ban of Polish poultry imports, resulting in an 11 percent drop in poultry exports during the first five months of 2020. Poland is not currently eligible to export poultry meat to the United States.

General Information

On August 13, 2020, CVO Dr. Bogdan Konopka declared Poland as free from HPAI following a three-month period with no additional HPAI detections, as per Article 3 of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code. 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 with 29,000 birds in the Lubuskie Province in western Poland. On May 13, the CVO reported to the OIE that activities related to the eradication of the disease were complete. On August 13, Poland regained its HPAI-free status in accordance with OIE recommendations.

After the December 31, 2019, HPAI outbreak, several important export markets moved to ban Polish poultry and egg products, notably South Africa, China, South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, and the Philippines. Ukraine, Belarus, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Russia, Armenia, Cuba, and Saudi Arabia restricted Polish poultry imports based on Poland's regionalization plan. In 2019, 87 percent of Polish poultry meat exports went to other EU markets, particularly the UK, Germany, and France. Poland's major non-EU poultry export markets were South Africa, Hong Kong, and China. In 2019, exports to these three destinations were valued at \$156 million and accounted for five percent of total exports. Despite losing the abovementioned markets, Poland continued to ship poultry meat within the EU. However, during first five months of 2020, exports to the EU markets dropped by ten percent from the same period of 2019, following the COVID-19 pandemic the sudden drop in demand from the restaurant, hospitality, and institutional sectors. The HPAI-related import bans and the COVID-related drop in demand throughout the EU resulted in an 11-percent overall decrease in Polish poultry exports during the first five months of 2020.

After declaring Poland's freedom from HPAI, the CVO asked all countries with related trade restrictions to reopen their markets to Polish poultry. To date, Singapore, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, and Hong Kong have lifted import restrictions on Polish poultry meat and products. Poland is not currently eligible to export poultry meat to the United States.

Although Poland remains the EU's largest poultry producer, its broiler sector was severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis and the HPAI outbreak. Large operators focused on HRI markets in the UK and Germany were particularly adversely affected, as orders dried up and cross-border logistics become challenging. Domestic demand for poultry meat also declined. Post estimates that 2020 broiler production will decrease by three percent from 2019. However, Post expects that during the second half of 2020 and into 2021, Polish broiler production will rebound.

For additional information, see GAIN Reports:

[Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Strikes Commercial Flocks in Poland \(January 1, 2020\)](#)

[Polish Poultry Industry Faces Unprecedented Crisis \(May 19, 2020\)](#)

Attachments:

No Attachments.