

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** April 23, 2021

**Report Number:** CE2021-0005

**Report Name:** Sri Lanka - Success Story - Potential Detention at Port of  
Thousands of US Day-Old-Chicks Resolved

**Country:** Sri Lanka

**Post:** Colombo

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Export Accomplishments - Border Facilitation, Detained Shipments, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports, Pest/Disease Occurrences

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**Report Highlights:**

FAS Colombo\New Delhi and APHIS New Delhi engaged with the Sri Lanka Department of Animal Production and Health, clarifying the current situation of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) following a reported outbreak in a backyard layer flock in Webster County, Missouri on November 7, 2020. Post's timely intervention and negotiations averted the potential rejection and loss of a roughly 7,500 live bird shipment from the U.S. valued at about \$156,000. Post similarly intervened in January 2021 in the case of a 46,000 live bird stock shipment.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) [State Ministry of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy and Egg Related Industries](#) - [Department of Animal Production and Health](#) (DAPH) raised concerns, and requested assistance from FAS Colombo\New Delhi on December 8, 2020, regarding importation on December 12 of day-old-chicks originating in several U.S. states. Sri Lanka was specifically concerned with a reported November 7, 2020, outbreak of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) in a backyard duck layer flock in Webster County, Missouri.

FAS Colombo\New Delhi and APHIS New Delhi effectively collaborated in clarifying the outbreak's situation, highlighting that it was safe to import high-value perishable day-old-chicks from the United States. At the time of intervention, a consignment of roughly 7,500 live birds (valued at about \$156,000) was programmed for export to Sri Lanka. Intervention and negotiations with the Sri Lankan regulatory authority, literally on the fly, resulted in the consignment being discharged upon arrival after undergoing rigorous animal inspection and testing.

### **Live Bird Shipment, To Detain or Not to Detain due to Missouri LPAI Outbreak**

**Sri Lanka's Department of Animal Production and Health Raises Concerns over LPAI Outbreak in United States:** The DAPH is the Government of Sri Lanka's regulatory authority for animal imports. Unable to retrieve information from the World Organization for Animal Health's (OIE) – WAHIS ([OIE-Animal Health portal](#)), DAPH raised directly with FAS Colombo\New Delhi its concerns pertaining to the import of grandparent stock from several U.S. states. Sri Lanka was acting on second-hand information of an outbreak of LPAI in a backyard layer flock in Webster County, Missouri on November 7, 2020.

**Communicating the U.S. LPAI Outbreak Situation:** FAS Colombo\New Delhi and APHIS New Delhi confirmed the outbreak of H5 LPAI in a backyard duck layer flock in Webster County, Missouri of November 7, 2020 (as reported by the [National Veterinary Services Laboratories](#) – NVSL). Samples, collected as part of routine National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) testing, do not report mortality or clinical signs associated with the premises in question. The National Veterinary Service Laboratories confirmed, however, the North American wild bird lineage H5N2 LPAI by sequencing, with the virus' isolation pending.

The DAPH was requested to restrict any suspension of U.S. poultry and poultry products, due to this specific LPAI outbreak, to a controlled-quarantine zone within a 10-kilometer radius of the property, excluding heat-treated poultry and poultry products. The Sri Lankan authority was assured that APHIS would not certify any product originating within the controlled-quarantine zone; the United States maintains a robust surveillance and response system for avian influenza outbreaks. A map of the 10-kilometer radius controlled-quarantine zone was given to Sri Lanka. The clarifications provided permitted the DAPH to determine that the measures adopted by the United States were sufficient to accept and permit the discharge of the day-old-chick consignment following rigorous, science-based testing. The shipment arrived in Colombo on December 12, 2020 and was released.

The Sri Lanka DAPH reviews on a regular basis the avian influenza situation in the United States. FAS Colombo\New Delhi together with APHIS New Delhi collaborate and assist in providing updated information to Sri Lanka. The authority inquired again in January 2021, whether avian influenza would affect a consignment of 46,000 live birds originating in the U.S. states of Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Kentucky; with APHIS confirming that there were no further reported avian influenza outbreaks.

**Inability of Access the OIE-WAHIS System:** The DAPH has been unable to retrieve information from the OIE-WAHIS system; access has been limited pending the transition to a new platform. All countries have been instructed to hold submissions of reports and annual reports for a period of six-months (until further notice); only immediate notifications and follow-up reports are being accepted and published.

**Potential Impact on Trade:** At the time of the DAPH inquiry, the authority had already issued its import permit for the consignment, speeding up the potential of an imminent shipment. Day-old-chicks were being supplied by an Arkansas broiler breeder with hatchery operations in Missouri.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.