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Bird Flu Situation in the Czech Republic

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Agriculture in the Economy

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Report Highlights:

Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5 subtype occurrences in the Czech Republic continue, now reaching ten outbreaks in domestic birds incidences in wild populations as well. Mainly small scale holdings, in four (of fourteen) Czech regions are affected.

General Information:

Situation Overview

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) occurred in the Czech Republic after nearly a decade of disease freedom. On January 3, 2017, the first outbreak of HPAI, type H5N8, was confirmed in a mixed poultry backyard flock in South Moravian region, in Moravsky Krumlov town. A second outbreak followed shortly, confirmed on January 4, in a backyard turkey flock in Ivancice town in the same region. The sources of the infections was determined to be wild birds; HPAI was confirmed in two wild swans in the South Moravian region.

Protection and surveillance zones (a 3km and a 10km zone) were established with large scale commercial poultry holdings within both zones. In the 3 km radius protection zone there is a duck reproduction farm, and within the 10 km radius surveillance zone there are commercial holdings of approximately 150,000 birds.

Still, other outbreaks shortly followed. By January 25th, nine backyard and small scale poultry holdings confirmed HPAI, H5 subtype. Most of them are located in the South Moravian Region. Other regions with HPAI outbreaks are Central Bohemia, South Bohemia and Olomouc. Czech Republic has 14 regions in total, with four regions reporting HPAI domestic incidences and six reporting incidences in wild birds.

On January 25th, a tenth outbreak was confirmed in an enclosed commercial holding near Strakonice, resulting in the culling of 6,500 ducks. This is the first case in an enclosed indoor holding, (as opposed to birds allowed to roam outside). Officials from the State Veterinary Administration are trying to determine how the disease made its way into a closed facility.

For a complete chronologic overview of the outbreaks and their locations please see the Czech State Veterinary Administration website at <http://en.svscr.cz/>. Information is provided in English language.

Measures Taken

No poultry products and animals were sent from the infected holdings and all measures taken by the State Veterinary Administration are in accordance with EU legislation. Veterinary measures include establishing of 3 km radius protection zone and 10 km radius surveillance zone around each outbreak (focus of infection). The special veterinary measures are in place at least for one month and include culling of the infected (and non-infected) birds, travel restrictions, and increased testing of poultry holdings within the protection and surveillance zones. Protection and surveillance zones are not applied, when HPAI is found in wild birds.

Impact on Production and Trade

Approximately 20 thousand birds have been culled so far. The total number of poultry in the Czech

Republic reaches over 21 million, so the losses are not critical.

No significant trade disruptions are foreseen, at least for now. Third countries may ban import of poultry and products from the whole country, which happened now with Israel. Other third countries that issued bans on imports only from affected regions are Mexico, Ukraine, Serbia, and Hong Kong.

The main export market for the Czech poultry producers are, however, European states. Those limit imports from the affected regions. An important market for breeding eggs is Russia, which so far bans only imports from affected regions as well.

Czech imports of meat and edible offal of poultry (Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys and Guineas), fresh, chilled or frozen reached 118,000 MT (\$277 million) in 2016 (January - November). Exports for the same period totaled at 37,000 MT (\$77 million). Main trading partners were Poland, Hungary, Netherlands, Germany and Slovakia.