



Context

On November 26th, 2021, an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strain H5N1 was detected in breeding in the department of Nord (59), signifying the loss of the free status that France had recovered on September 2, 2021 in accordance with the Chapter 10.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Sanitary situation

- **8 holdings outbreaks in the “Nord” department (59)**

Since the confirmation of the first outbreak of HPAI on November 26th, 2021, seven others have been detected in a single area as part of the surveillance measures, bringing the number of outbreaks in this department to 8. They were all notified to the OIE in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1.1 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code in the context of the same event linked to the circulation of the same H5N1 strain.

The epidemiological investigation to determine the origin of these contaminations and a possible link between these 8 outbreaks is being consolidated. However, the link with wildlife is probable; this region of France is a wetland known to host migratory species.

All the birds from affected farms were slaughtered, their carcasses destroyed and a first disinfection was carried out. Additional preventive depopulation in healthy farms is being finalized within a radius of 1 to 3 km.

- **22 holdings outbreaks in 3 departments of the South-West (Gers, Landes and Pyrénées-Atlantiques)**

From December 16th, 2021, 22 outbreaks of HPAI were declared: 5 outbreaks in the Gers (32), 13 outbreaks in the Landes (40) and 4 outbreaks in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques (64). Even though it is the same H5N1 strain, these outbreaks have no epidemiological link with the outbreaks in the “Nord” department (59). Here again they are located near wetlands attracting wild birds on their migration path.

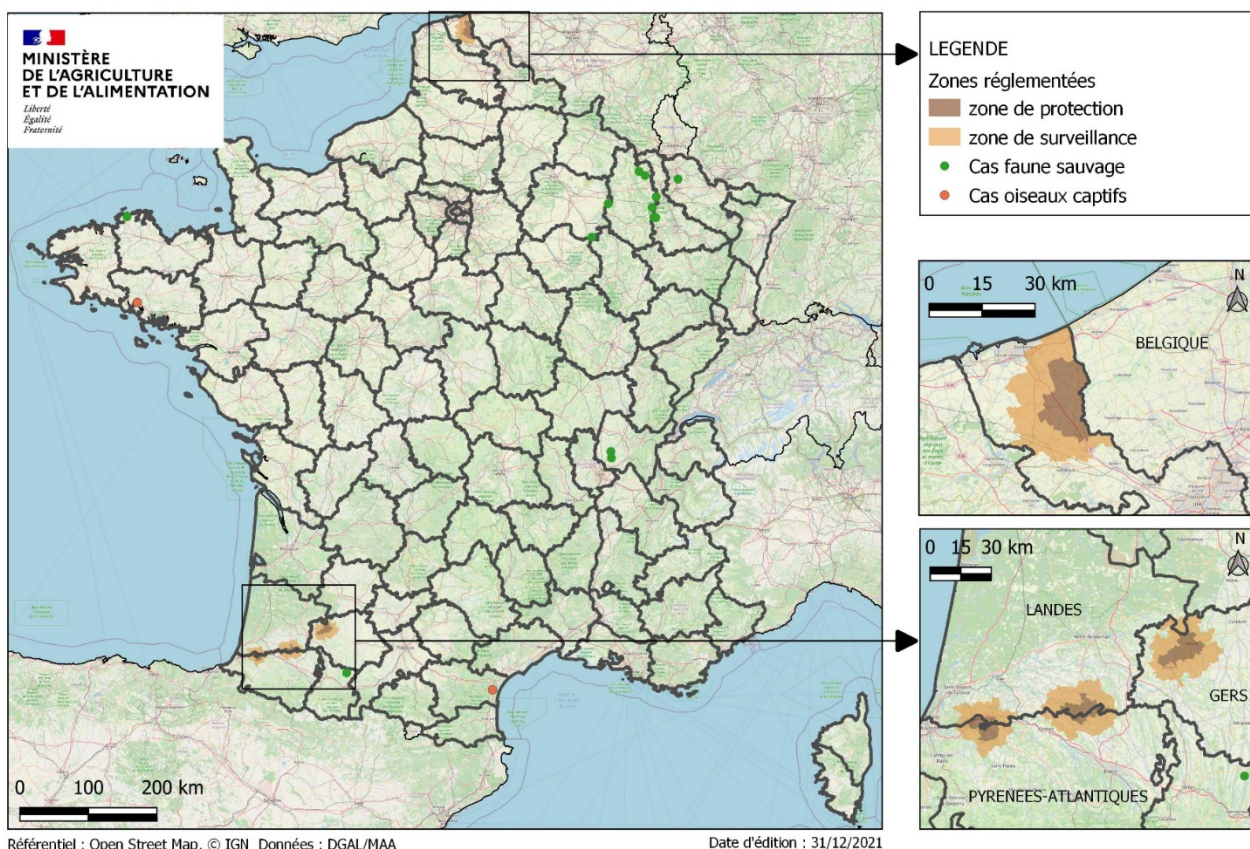
From the stage of suspicion, health management measures were triggered with the establishment of regulated zoning (3 and 10km) around the farms concerned, strengthening of biosecurity measures, census of farms and ban on the movement of poultry in the regulated areas.

All birds in the outbreaks were slaughtered and eliminated upon suspicion and no later than the same day of confirmation, followed by initial disinfection. Epidemiological investigations are in progress.

In the Gers (32) department, preventive depopulation of epidemiologically linked farms and those located around the outbreak has been implemented. It concerns all birds within a radius of 1 km and all palmipeds and poultry reared in the open air within the radius of 3 km.

It should be noted that from 31 December 2021, an additional restricted zone, 10 km wide, will surround the restricted zones currently established around the outbreak in Malaussanne (Landes department - 40). In this zone, it will be forbidden to place day-old poultry (galliformes and palmipeds); in other words, the restocking of farms located in the additional restricted zone is prohibited. The measure will apply at least until 7 January, at which time it will be extended or not depending on the evolution of the disease situation. The implementation of the additional restricted zone aims to limit the risk of contamination in a farming area with a high risk of spreading the virus, due to the large number of farms in the area.

Zones réglementées liées aux foyers et cas sauvages IAHP détectés en France



French Influenza restriction zones

Outlook for the evolution of the IAHP status of the affected departments

In accordance with Chapter 10.4 Article 10.4.6 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code in its revised version, voted on May 29th, 2021 and published on the OIE website, and in the absence of a new outbreak, affected departments could recover their free status 28 days after the completion of stamping-out, cleaning and disinfection operations in their last respective outbreak.