



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) and two outbreak in “Vendée” department (85)**

Department of North (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. The last outbreak in this department was detected on 20 December 2021. 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 favor contacts with wildlife; 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 was carried out within a radius of 1 to 3 km.

The absence of any new outbreaks in the Nord department since 20 December 2021 (for more than two weeks), as well as the closure of six reports on the OIE website (6 outbreaks resolved), shows the effectiveness of the sanitary measures put in place and the stabilization of the sanitary situation in this department.

Department of Vendée (85)

An outbreak of HPAI was detected on 2/01/2022 in the Vendée (85) department. Since the stage of suspicion and even before its confirmation, sanitary management measures have been triggered with the implementation of a regulated zoning (3 and 10km) around the farm, reinforcement of biosecurity measures, census of farms and prohibition of poultry movements in the regulated zone. At that stage epidemiological investigation favor also contacts with wildlife as source of contagion.

A second outbreak was detected on 10/01/2022, not linked with the first one. All the animals were culled.

- **Situation in the South-West**

From December 16th, 2021, 155 outbreaks of HPAI were declared, notably 108 outbreaks in the Landes (40), 1 outbreak in Lot et Garonne (47), 16 outbreaks in the Gers (32), 2 outbreaks in the Hautes Pyrénées (65) and 28 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” and “Vendée” departments. 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.

A 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. The surveillance zone has been extended to 20 km from the location of the outbreak.

French Influenza restriction zones

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

