



## Context

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strain H5N1 was detected in a breeding farm 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

For all the outbreaks, from the suspicion stage, health management measures were triggered with the establishment of regulated zoning (3 and 10 km) around the farms concerned, reinforcement of biosecurity measures, census of farms and prohibition of movements. poultry in restricted areas.

- **11 OUTBREAKS in breeding farms outside the South-West: 8 in the “Nord” department (59), 3 in the “Vendée” department (85)**

### Department of North (59) : imminent free status recovery

The department counted eight H5N1 outbreaks in total in a single area, the last detected in December 2021. Additional preventive depopulation in healthy farms was carried out within a radius of 1 to 3 km. The epidemiological investigation favors the link with wildlife in a region known to host migratory species (presence of wetlands). All restriction zones have been lifted. All outbreaks are now closed in the reports to the OIE. The department will soon recover its free status, the date will be communicated to you shortly.

### Department of Vendée (85)

Two outbreaks were detected on January 2 and 10, 2022, immediately depopulated. A third outbreak (palmipeds) was confirmed on January 25, 20km away from the first one, but with no epidemiological link. Investigations favor contact with birds as a source of contamination.

- **336 OUTBREAKS in the South-West in 5 departments : “Gers” (32), “Landes” (40), “Lot-et-Garonne” (47), “Hautes-Pyrénées” (65) and Pyrénées-Atlantiques (64)**

Since December 16, 2021, 336 outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 have been declared in the South-West, of which around 70% in the “Landes” department, 20% in the “Pyrénées-Atlantiques” and 10% in the “Gers” department. Even if it is the same H5N1 strain, these outbreaks have no direct epidemiological link with the outbreaks in the “Nord” department (59) and “Vendée” (85). Again they are located near wetlands attracting wild birds on their migration path.

The preliminary results of epidemiological surveys and analyzes of the virus strains detected also tend to show that the South-West was subjected to several simultaneous introductions and that the virus then spread from farm to farm.

To reduce the duration of the epizootic and to prevent it from spreading to other production areas that are now unscathed, the health authorities have decided to organize an accelerated preventive depopulation (poultry and palmipeds), with the exception of breeders. At the same time a temporary ban on restocking farms will be set up. The perimeter concerned (see map below) encompasses the active outbreaks in the departments of “Landes” (40), “Pyrénées-Atlantiques” (64) and “Gers” (32). This scope may change depending on epizootic developments.

To date, the slaughter concerned nearly 2 millions palmipeds and 1 million galliforms birds.

### French Influenza restriction zones

