



Context

On November 26th, 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, sanitary management measures were triggered with the establishment of regulated zoning (3 and 10 km) around the concerned farms, reinforcement of biosecurity measures, census of farms and prohibition of movements of poultry in the restricted areas.

In the South-West and Western France, additional measures of depopulation have been implemented.

- **11 OUTBREAKS in breeding outside the South-West and Western France areas: 8 outbreaks in the Nord department (59), 2 outbreaks in the Indre-et-Loire department (37), and 1 in the Seine-Maritime (76)**

Department of North (59)

The department counted 8 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 recovery of disease-free status has been delayed due to the choice of longer natural cleaning/disinfection methods for the last two outbreaks. It is foreseen for **end of April**.

Department of Indre-et-Loire (37)

Two outbreaks have been confirmed in this department of the Center-West of France, in farms with low commercial activity. The first is located in Beaumont-village, confirmed on February 12th in an educational farm for laying hens and ornamental birds, the second in Nouans-les-fontaines in a breeding farm holding various birds including ducks, pheasants and other birds of ornament. **The recovery of the free status is scheduled for April 25.**

Department of Seine-Maritime (76)

One outbreak was confirmed on the 5th of February 2022 in a poultry farm. All sanitary management measures: slaughter, destruction of carcasses, disinfection have been carried out. Surveillance around this outbreak is in progress, the epidemiological investigation is being consolidated.

- **361 outbreaks in breeding in the SOUTH-WEST in 5 departments: Gers (32), Landes (40), Lot-et-Garonne (47), Hautes-Pyrénées (65) and Pyrénées-Atlantiques (64)**

The situation is almost stabilized in the South-West confirming the good results of accelerated preventive depopulation measures (with the exception of breeding animals) and temporary ban on repopulation farms for all poultry and waterfowl within the perimeter encompassing the active outbreaks in the departments of Landes (40), Pyrénées-Atlantiques (64) and Gers (32). More than 80% of the outbreaks are located in the two departments of Landes (231 outbreaks) and Pyrénées-Atlantiques (71 outbreaks).

Depopulation has been completed since the end of February, with more than 4 million poultry slaughtered, more than half of which are waterfowl.

The French health authorities are finalizing the strategy for lifting restriction zones and authorizing repopulation. In all cases, the poultry must be put back in place in an uncontaminated environment, after sanitation, in order to prevent any new resurgence.

- **384 outbreaks in breeding in Western France (Pays de Loire): 1 outbreak in the department of Mayenne (53), 306 outbreaks in the department of Vendée (85), 51 in the department of Loire Atlantique (44), 18 in the Maine et Loire department (49) and 8 in the Deux-Sèvres department (79)**

The situation is very changing in Western France, except in Mayenne and Deux-Sèvres.

Department of Mayenne (53)

In this department of the West part of France, a first outbreak was confirmed on February 15th in a duck force-feeding room in Saint-Martin du Limet, at the southern end of the department. The ducks came from Vendée.

Department of Vendée (85) and neighboring departments (Loire-Atlantique (44), Maine et Loire (49) and Deux-Sèvres (79))

Since the beginning of February, outbreaks have multiplied in the Vendée department (**80% of outbreaks**) and in a lesser extent in the neighboring departments (Loire-Atlantique (44), Maine et Loire (49) and Deux-Sèvres (79)).

At this stage, the first hypotheses to epidemiologically explain this contamination are as follows:

- spread of the virus from the first farms affected from the coastal zone to inland zones potentially favored by certain climatic phenomena (storms)
- currently enhanced dissemination due to the short distances between farms, with possible airborne transmission of the virus

In view of this situation, since March 6, the following measures have been put in place, in addition to the regulatory slaughter, disinfection and zoning measures:

- Suspension of shipments of day-old chicks and hatching eggs produced in all hatcheries in the restricted area;

- Particular attention to the protection around strategic sites (hatcheries, breeding farms) with preventive depopulation within a perimeter of 5 km in order to protect recovery capacities when reaching a sanitized situation;
- Enlargement of the surveillance zone with a ban on movements and the reinstatement of poultry, except by way of derogation

At this stage, more than 1.2 million animals have already been slaughtered in the area.

French Influenza restriction zones

