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Food & Rural Affairs

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## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS Note 2015/01

Date: 8 January 2015

### Situation update on HPAI outbreak in the USA

#### Purpose

To advise OVSs that a second outbreak of HPAI H5N8 has been confirmed in Benson County in the State of Washington.

#### Background

A second outbreak of HPAI H5N8 was confirmed on 3 January 2015 in a backyard flock comprising 85 heads of poultry in Benson County, State of Washington.

The Commission is going to present for vote at the PAFF committee on 13/14 January two drafts for regionalisation of the US in regard of HPAI for import of poultry, their hatching eggs, fresh meat, and for import of meat products. The proposed regionalization will, based on present situation, include an area within the state of Oregon and Washington. Please see attached fax and Annexes.

The Commission has asked the UK to accept consignments of poultry and poultry products certified by US competent authorities as from 26/12/2014, if they originate outside the state of Oregon and the State of Washington.

#### Action for OVSs

To note that the UK has agreed to the application of the regionalisation of USA before amendments to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 and Decision 2007/777/EC are published.

#### Contact point for enquiries

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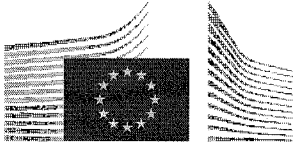
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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate G – Veterinary and International Affairs  
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**URGENT HPAI - FAX – 07/01/2015**

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<b>To:</b>	CVOs of all Member States + Norway, Iceland, Switzerland + Turkey + all Permanent Representations	<b>Telephone:</b>	
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**Number of pages:** 1 + 8

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**Subject:** **Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 in the USA - Situation update**

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**Message:**

Please find attached information and maps received today 07/01/2015 from the USDA/APHIS on the follow-up to the HPAI H5N8 outbreak in a backyard flock that had occurred in Douglas County, State of Oregon (see fax of 25/12/2014).


A second outbreak of HPAI H5N8 was confirmed on 3 January 2015 in a backyard flock comprising 85 heads of poultry in Benson County, State of Washington. For that outbreak APHIS will provide further information.

Based on the information received the Commission is going to present for vote at the PAFF Committee of 13/14 January 2015 two drafts for regionalisation of the US in regard of HPAI for import of poultry, their hatching eggs, fresh meat and for imports of meat products. The proposed regionalisation will, based on the present situation, include an area within the States of Oregon and Washington.

Repeating my previous request, awaiting for the adoption of the legal texts mentioned above, and in order to avoid unnecessary disruption of trade, I would like to ask you to advise your border inspection posts to accept consignments of poultry and poultry products certified by the US competent authorities as from 26/12/2014, if they originate outside the State of Oregon and the State of Washington.

I will keep you informed of further developments.

Yours faithfully,

  
 Bernard Van Goethem

**Cc:** M. Valletta, J. Gurstis (Cabinet Commissioner Andriukaitis), E. Brivio (DG COMM), L. Miko, B. Gautrais, T. Gumbel, R. Domenech Amado, L. Terzi, A. Rys, M. Scannell, C. Bertrand, J.-F. Ryan (DG SANTE), I. Brown (EURL, Weybridge), DG Agri, DG Trade, DG Elarg, DG Env, OIE, FAO, EFSA, ECDC, Council Secretariat, Del Turkey, Del Russia, Del Switzerland, CVO USA, USA Mission to the EU.

## **DETECTION OF H5N8 HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) IN THE STATE OF OREGON**

**SUMMARY:** A backyard flock of approximately 100 birds located in Douglas County, Oregon, was confirmed with HPAI on December 19, 2014. The flock was depopulated on December 21, 2014, and cleaning and disinfection was completed on December 23, 2014. Active surveillance is being conducted in the immediate area. Movement controls for poultry and poultry products are in place in the control zone, defined as Douglas County, Oregon.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT**

On December 16, 2014, the Oregon State Veterinarian (OSV) received a report of an increased mortality event on a backyard flock of approximately 100 birds in Douglas County, Oregon. The backyard flock contained a mix of chickens, geese, ducks, and guinea fowl, and the birds were allowed access to the outdoors. Approximately 25 guinea hens out of a flock of 35 have died over the preceding five to ten days. Two or three chickens from a flock of approximately 50 also died. Additional species include 20 ducks, and 12 geese. There is a pond on the premises which is frequented by migratory waterfowl. The surrounding pasture land is semi-marsh, frequently grazed by migrating waterfowl. Up to 300 migratory birds were reported to be present at any time during the last few weeks.

Swab samples from 8 birds (geese, ducks, guinea hens, chickens) as well as 2 fresh dead chicken carcasses, 3 fresh dead guinea hen carcasses, and 2 frozen guinea hen carcasses were submitted to the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OSU VDL) for testing by PCR. The PCR results on five birds were preliminarily positive for H5. Twenty (20) samples from ten (10) birds were forwarded to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for confirmatory testing on December 17, 2014.

The NVSL confirmed six (6) out of ten (10) samples as AIV H5 positive by the real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) assay. The virus was confirmed on December 19, 2014 as HPAI H5N8. The HA sequence for two of the positive swabs was typed as 99.0% and 99.3% similar to A/Broiler Duck/Korea/Buan2/2014 (H5N8 HPAI) based on a partial fragment of the HA gene. The neuraminidase sequence was respectively 99.6% and 99.7% similar to A/waterfowl/Korea/S005/2014 (H5N8) based on a partial fragment of the NA gene.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

An Incident Command team was immediately formed from personnel from Veterinary Services' (VS) District 6 (D6), VS California, VS Oregon, the Oregon State Veterinarian, and the VS Tumwater Incident Command team to coordinate the response activities.

The State quarantined the affected backyard flock. The affected flock was depopulated on December 21, 2014. A total of 106 birds of various types were humanely euthanized and

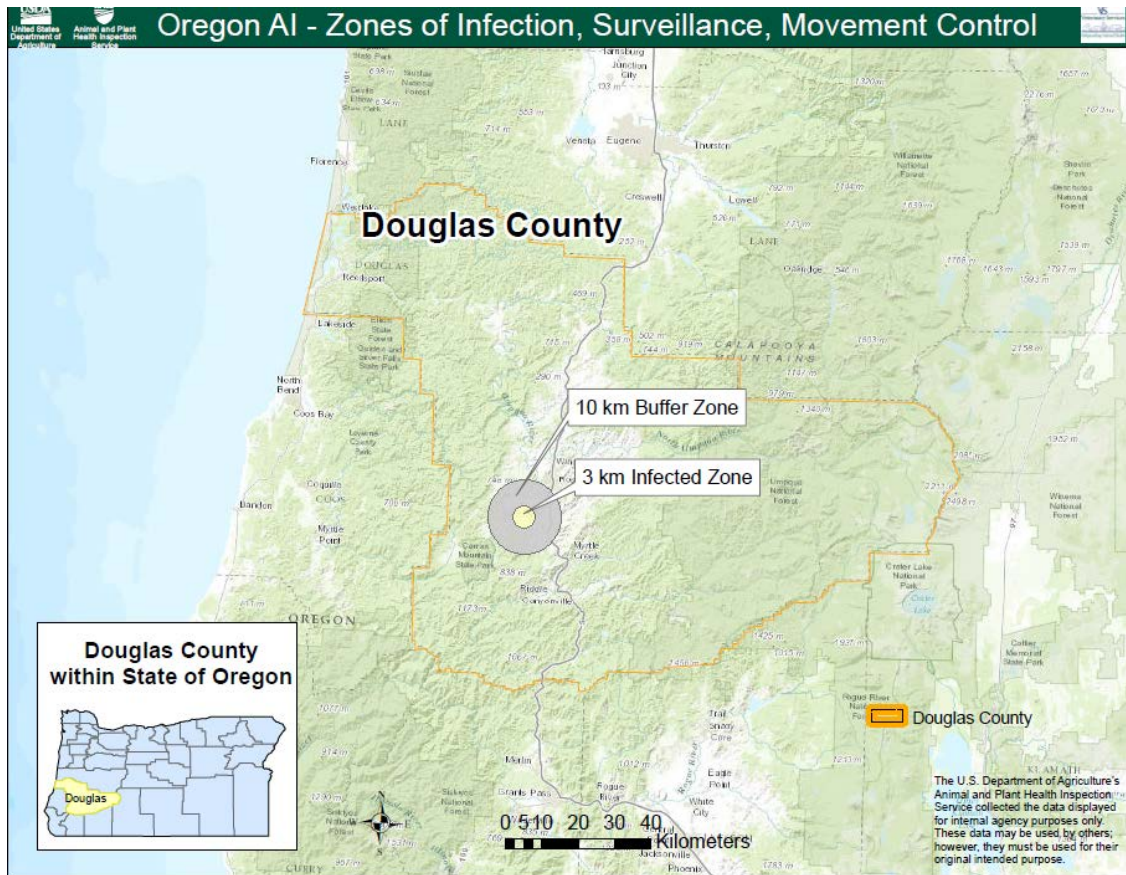
incinerated. Indemnity will be paid to the owner. Cleaning and Disinfection was completed on December 23, 2014.

### MOVEMENT CONTROL

The affected backyard flock was immediately quarantined based on the initial preliminary positive H5 results. No movement of birds on or off the affected premises has occurred since August 2014. The owners have not been on any other premises nor had visitors in the last three months.

All of Douglas County has been put under a hold order/quarantine by the State authorities. All poultry/poultry product movements in and out of the county are controlled by permit. Within this control zone, both an infected zone (3 km radius surrounding the affected flock) and buffer zone (area between 3 km and 10 km radius) have been established for surveillance purposes.

The map below shows the control zone:



## EPIDEMIOLOGY AND OUTREACH

To date, there are no epidemiologically-linked premises that were identified. An epidemiological investigation is ongoing, more information will be provided as it becomes available.

Outreach activities are being conducted. Local veterinarians and Bird Feed Outlets were visited with outreach materials, education, and situation updates. Approximately 35 premises located in the infected and buffer zones were also visited, with bird inventories taken, and outreach and education was conducted. No commercial poultry premises are located within the 3 km and 10 km zones.

## SURVEILLANCE

Active surveillance in all avian species in backyard flocks is being conducted within a 10 km radius of the infected flock. Other populations in the control zone currently under surveillance include two NPIP flocks in Douglas County as well as a wildlife park and wild bird surveillance. Data on the enhanced surveillance will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

In the United States a high level of active surveillance for avian influenza is conducted in commercial poultry. The H5N8 virus has not been found in commercial poultry anywhere in the United States. The finding in Oregon was quickly reported and identified due to increased awareness of avian influenza in light of the HPAI H5 findings in wild birds in Washington State earlier this week. The H5N8 virus found in the backyard flock is the same virus found in the Washington State gyrfalcons.

The following table includes summary for AI surveillance in the United States for the period FY 2011-2013, and the first two quarters of FY 2014.

### Avian Influenza Surveillance in the United States- FY 2011-2014

<b>FY 2014: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Jan 1, 2014-Mar 31, 2014)</b>		
Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS)	29024	tests performed
National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)	739,429	tests performed
*National Chicken Council (NCC)	11,577	flocks tested
<b>FY 2014: 1st Quarter (Oct 1, 2013-Dec 31, 2013)</b>		
Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS)	34,637	tests performed
National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)	498,169	tests performed
*National Chicken Council (NCC)	13,373	flocks tested
<b>FY 2013 SUMMARY</b>		
Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS)	159,469	tests performed
National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)	1,787,443	tests performed
*National Chicken Council (NCC)	58,686	flocks tested

<b>FY 2012 SUMMARY</b>		
Live Bird Marketing System	146,533	tests performed
National Poultry Improvement Plan	1,936,147	tests performed
*National Chicken Council	66,744	flocks tested
<b>FY 2011 SUMMARY</b>		
Live Bird Marketing System	131,946	tests performed
National Poultry Improvement Plan	2,090,768	tests performed
*National Chicken Council	74,883	flocks tested

\*The National Chicken Council data is also included in the NPIP totals

## **CONCLUSION**

The H5N8 HPAI in Oregon was detected due to the increased awareness efforts following the detection of HPAI in wild bird in Washington State. HPAI has not been detected in any commercial poultry in the United States despite the ongoing high level of surveillance nationally. In the United States commercial producers follow strict biosecurity practices to prevent the introduction of infection into their flocks.

Veterinary Services (VS) and officials from the State of Oregon are responding swiftly to the detection of H5N8 HPAI in a small backyard flock Oregon. The state quarantined the affected premises and the affected flock of 106 birds was depopulated and incinerated. Cleaning and disinfection of the affected premises was completed on December 23, 2014. The epidemiological investigation and enhanced surveillance are ongoing.

Currently, VS considers Douglas County in the state of Oregon as the control zone based on the Administrative Unit concept. We will provide more information about the enhanced surveillance and the epidemiological investigation as it becomes readily available.

## **DETECTION OF H5N8 HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) IN BACKYARD POULTRY IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**SUMMARY:** A backyard flock of approximately 85 birds located in Benton County, Washington, was confirmed with HPAI on January 3, 2015. The flock is scheduled to be depopulated on January 6, 2015, with cleaning and disinfection to immediately follow. Active surveillance is being implemented in the immediate area. As the initial investigation and enhanced surveillance are being established, the control zone for this incident is considered to be the State of Washington. As additional information is obtained, this control zone will change.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT**

On December 30, 2014, the owner of a backyard flock in Benton County, Washington reported high mortality in an eighty five (85) mixed species backyard bird flock. Thirty seven (37) birds had died since December 24, 2014 (1 goose, 21 turkeys, and 15 chickens). The chickens were asymptomatic prior to death. The turkeys showed signs of ataxia and other neurological signs prior to death. There are migrating waterfowl on the premises, mingling with this free range flock at times. Current inventory of the infected flock: Thirty eight (38) chickens, one (1) turkey, eight (8) pigeons, seventy seven (77) ducks, and approximately seventeen (17) wild geese. Waterfowl have access to areas where the birds range, and there is a pond on the premises.

The Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL) collected and tested pooled samples from the affected flock. Six (6) out of seven (7) samples were preliminarily AI matrix positive by rRT-PCR. Four (4) out of six (6) samples were AI (H5) rRT-PCR positive (both pools of chicken swabs, and both pools of turkey swabs were positive). On January 1, 2015, WADDL reported a presumptive positive rRT-PCR H5. Samples were forwarded to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for confirmatory testing. On January 3, 2015, NVSL confirmed HPAI H5N2 based upon sequence attempt directly from swab specimen (chickens), an avian influenza subtype H5N2 was identified from partial HA and NA fragments with 99% similarity to the recent H5N2 isolated from the Northern pintail at Wiser Lake (wild birds). Virus isolation is pending.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

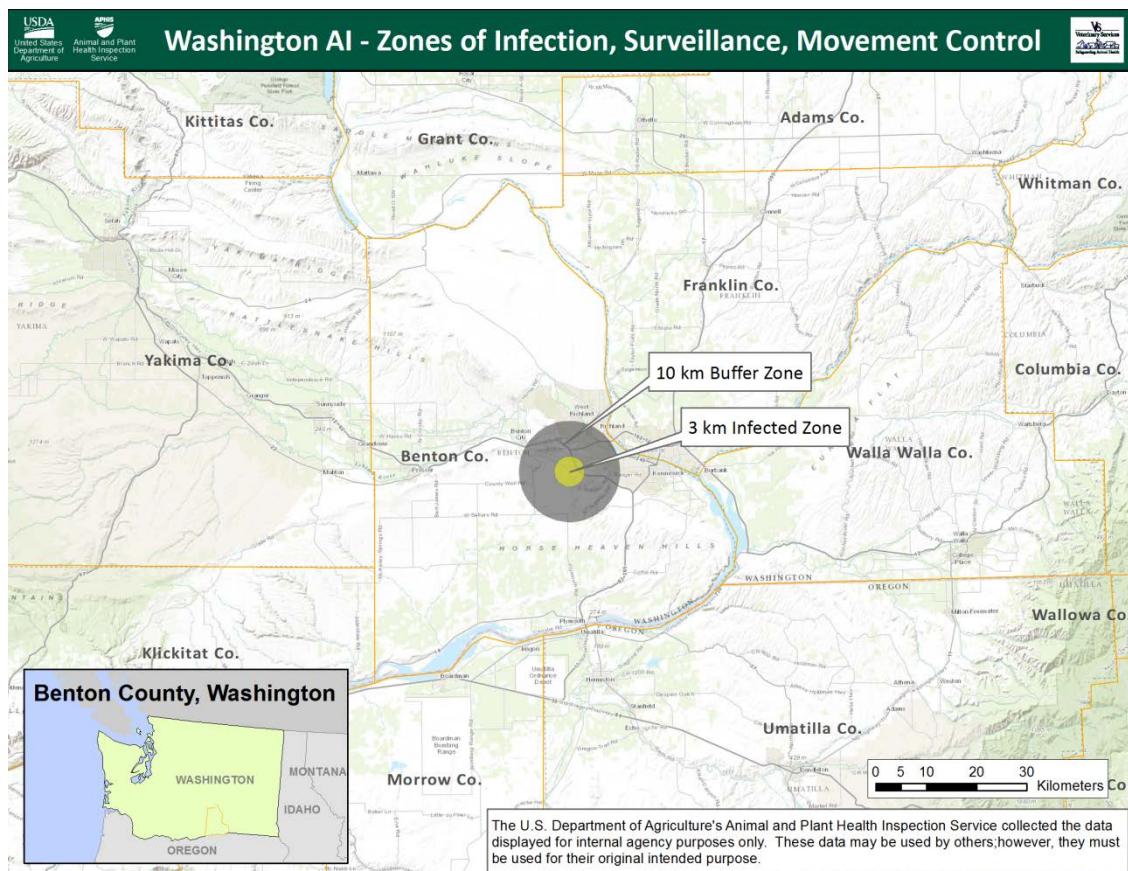
The affected backyard flock was quarantined by Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Infected and buffer zones were established around the infected premises. The infected zone is 3 km radius of the infected premises. The area between 3 km and 10 km of the infected premises is considered the buffer zone. Flock and Surveillance plans for the infected premises

have been completed and approved. Depopulation on the infected flock is scheduled for January 6, 2015 to be followed by cleaning and disinfection.

## MOVEMENT CONTROL

The affected backyard flock was immediately quarantined based on the initial preliminary positive H5 results.

### Map of Incident Location with buffer zones indicated



## SURVEILLANCE

Enhanced surveillance is beginning in the infected and buffer zones, and data on the enhanced surveillance will be provided when available. In the United States a high level of active surveillance for avian influenza is conducted in commercial poultry. The H5N2 HPAI virus has not been found in commercial poultry anywhere in the United States. The finding in the State of Washington was quickly reported and identified due to increased awareness of avian influenza in light of the HPAI H5 findings in wild birds in Washington State. The H5N2 HPAI found in the



backyard flock is similar to the recent H5N2 isolated from the Northern pintail at Wiser Lake (wild birds).

The following table includes summary for AI surveillance in the United States for the period FY 2011-2013, and the first two quarters of FY 2014.

**Avian Influenza Surveillance in the United States- FY 2011-2014**

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<b>FY 2011 SUMMARY</b>		
Live Bird Marketing System	131,946	tests performed
National Poultry Improvement Plan	2,090,768	tests performed
*National Chicken Council	74,883	flocks tested

\*The National Chicken Council data is also included in the NPIP totals

**EPIDEMIOLOGY**

Epidemiological investigation is ongoing, more information will be provided as available. No commercial poultry premises are located within the 3 km and 10 km zones

**BACKGROUND: HPAI DETECTION IN WILD BIRDS**

As a precaution and in response to the recent HPAI outbreak in Canada, surveillance of poultry premises and of wild bird mortality events was enhanced by the USDA, and State personnel

along the United States - Canadian Border. Through this surveillance, highly pathogenic avian influenza, HPAI H5, was identified in wild birds:

- HPAI H5N8 was identified in a captive wild Gyrfalcon that was fed hunter killed wild birds from Whatcom County, Washington. Based upon direct sequencing from Gyrfalcon specimens, an avian influenza subtype H5N8 of Eurasian lineage (partial H5 99% similarity to A/coot/Korea/H81/2014 and partial N8 99% similarity to A/Baikal teal/Korea/H41/2014). The amino acid sequence at the hemagglutinin cleavage site is consistent with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).
- HPAI H5N2 was also identified in a wild Pintail Duck. Preliminary analysis suggests this H5N2 is similar to the HPAI identified in the current Canadian outbreak. Based upon sequence attempt from a virus isolate, an avian influenza subtype H5 of Eurasian lineage (partial HA 98% similarity to A/bean goose/Korea/H40/2014) and N2 of US wild bird lineage (partial NA 98% similarity to A/American green-winged teal/California/HKWF609/2007); the amino acid sequence at the hemagglutinin cleavage site is consistent with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Preliminary data suggests that these virus strains may be related with the H5N8 strain potentially representing the progenitor; however further analysis is needed. Neither of these viruses has been found in any poultry in the United States. These H5N8 and H5N2 detections involve only wild birds and are reported to the OIE as a notification of a HPAI H5 event in the wild bird sector. Further investigation and characterization of the HPAI viruses is ongoing.

## CONCLUSION

The H5N2 HPAI in Washington State was detected due to the increased awareness efforts following the detection of HPAI in wild bird in the State. The H5N2 HPAI has not been detected in any commercial poultry in the United States despite the ongoing high-level of surveillance.

Veterinary Services (VS) and officials from the State of Washington are responding swiftly to the detection of H5N2 HPAI in a small back yard flock in Benton County, Washington. The State quarantined the affected premises and the affected flock is scheduled for depopulation on January 6, 2015. The epidemiological investigation and enhanced surveillance are ongoing.

Currently, VS considers the State of Washington as the control zone based on the Administrative Unit concept. As more results of the enhanced surveillance and the epidemiological investigation become readily available, VS will change this control zone and decrease the geographic area included. VS will provide details on these changes to the EC as the incident progresses, and expects that these decisions will be recognized accordingly.