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Jamaica Eases Restrictions on U.S. Poultry Exports

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Poultry and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On March 17, 2017, Jamaica issued an advisory lifting the restrictions on U.S. poultry exports to Jamaica due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), 18 months after the outbreak.

General Information:

On March 17, 2017, Jamaica's Veterinary Services Division (VSD) issued an advisory lifting the restrictions on U.S. poultry exports to Jamaica due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) from fifteen of the seventeen affected states. The easing of restrictions means that poultry products states affected by HPAI in 2015, with the exception of Alabama and Tennessee, will be allowed into Jamaica. It should be noted that Alabama and Tennessee had cases of HPAI in March 2017 and are still under assessment by the Government of Jamaica.

The first restrictions were imposed on March 12, 2015 following the outbreak of HPAI in eight U.S. states. A second advisory, issued by the VSD on September 23, 2015, restricted poultry products from an additional seven states, bringing the total to fifteen. The imposition of the original restrictions resulted in a US\$ 5 million reduction in U.S. poultry exports to Jamaica, to US\$25 million in 2016. The restrictions also impacted Jamaica's poultry industry, which sources most of its fertile eggs from the United States.

Following the initial outbreak of HPAI, the VSD initiated statewide restrictions on poultry imports. USDA/APHIS dialogued for approximately 18 months with VSD to remove the restrictions. At the same time, USDA/APHIS advocated for the adoption of new procedures in which affected counties within a 10 kilometer zone would be considered for restriction, versus restricting an entire state after an AI outbreak. The VSD finally adopted these recommended procedures effective March 17, 2017. The 2014/2015 HPAI outbreak began on December 15, 2014 when USDA confirmed the first case in wild waterfowl (ducks) and captive falcons in Whatcom County, Washington. On January 23, 2015, the first HPAI infected commercial flock was identified in California and thereafter several other states were affected. As a response to the outbreak, on March 12, 2015, the Jamaican VSD issued a notice to the Jamaican trade stating that a ban with immediate effect were placed on live birds, eggs, raw poultry products, and raw pet foods from Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington in the United States and British Columbia in Canada.

On September 23, 2015, MOA/VSD issued an update on the importation of live birds, eggs, raw poultry products, and raw pet foods containing poultry products from the United States and Canada. The ban on live birds, eggs, raw poultry products, and raw pet foods containing poultry issued on March 12, 2015 were lifted for the states of Arkansas, California, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Montana, Oregon and Washington. However, restrictions were placed on the fore-mentioned states, allowing poultry products that were slaughtered, or processed after specific dates to be eligible for export to Jamaica. The ban was also removed for avian commodities, including live poultry, fertile eggs, poultry meat and other poultry products originating in the province of British Columbia, Canada.

