

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Germany

**Post:** Berlin

### **New Outbreak of Avian Influenza**

**Report Categories:**

Poultry and Products

**Approved By:**

Kelly Stange

**Prepared By:**

Leif Erik Rehder

**Report Highlights:**

Germany has reported an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of the subtype H7N7 in laying hens in North West Germany on July 27, 2015. The veterinary authorities placed the infected holding immediately under restrictions.

**General Information:**

Germany has reported an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of the subtype H7N7 in laying hens in the district of Emsland in Lower Saxony, North West Germany on July 27, 2015. The holding keeps approximately 10,000 laying hens and the farmers self-monitoring process raised the Avian Influenza suspicion which was confirmed by the national reference laboratory Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute.

The veterinary authorities placed the infected holding immediately under restrictions as of July 26, 2015. All poultry of the affected holding has been culled and safely disposed. A 3km radius protection zone and a 10km surveillance zone were established around the outbreak holding. In addition to the killing of all laying hens present in the infected holding, also all poultry present in holdings situated in a radius of 1km were pre-emptively culled and the carcasses safely disposed of. Epidemiological investigations have been initiated immediately. An investigation into the outbreak is under way, and so far the source of the virus isn't known.

According to current knowledge no poultry or poultry meat has been dispatched to other German Länder, EU Member States or to third countries. Table eggs have been moved within the Province of Lower Saxony only but not to EU Member States or third countries. In 2014, Germany produced nearly 14 billion eggs and exported over 2 billion eggs. The majority is exported to the EU common market and there were just minor egg exports to the United States until lately. However, German companies have recently received permits to export to the United States. According to preliminary trade data, Germany has exported over 20 million eggs to the U.S. since end of June 2015.