

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Avian Influenza Outbreaks Confirmed in Central Poland

**Country:** Poland

**Post:** Warsaw

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Pest/Disease Occurrences, Poultry and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The Polish Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed two outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of subtype H5N1 in commercial farms of fattening turkeys in central Poland. On infected farms, the Veterinary Inspectorate implements all disease control measures in accordance with the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, including culling animals, cleaning and disinfection on the farm, and designating protection and surveillance zones. The two outbreaks change the HPAI status of the country and will influence export possibilities for Polish poultry meat and products to non-EU countries.

On October 3, 2021, the Polish Chief Veterinary Officer informed about the confirmation of two outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry of subtype H5N1, based on the results of laboratory tests of the National Reference Laboratory - National Veterinary Research Institute in Puławy.

HPAI outbreak No. 2021/340 was confirmed on November 2, 2021, in a commercial farm with 80,812 fattening turkeys. The farm is located in the village of Strusy in the commune of Paprotnia, Siedlce district, Mazowieckie Province (central Poland).

HPAI outbreak No. 2021/341 was confirmed on November 3, 2021, in a commercial farm with 61,469 fattening turkeys. The farm is located in the village of Strusy in the commune of Paprotnia, Siedlce district, Mazowieckie Province (central Poland).

On farms with outbreaks, the Veterinary Inspectorate implements all disease control measures in accordance with the procedures and provisions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, including the stamping out policy (culling animals and disposal of corpses), destruction of feed stuffs, contaminated equipment, and manure or their appropriate treatment to inactivate the virus, and carrying out cleaning and disinfection on the farm. To prevent further spread of disease, the veterinary authorities are required to immediately put in place movement restrictions on the affected holding and on all farms within at least a 10-km radius of these holdings, the so called surveillance zone. In addition, the competent authorities establish a protection zone with a radius of at least three kilometers around the holding. If necessary, stamping-out measures can also be extended to poultry farms in the vicinity or to farms which have had dangerous contacts with infected farm.

The two outbreaks change the HPAI status of the country. On September 25, 2021, Poland regained the status of a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)-free country, following 360 outbreaks in poultry and captive birds between November 2020 and August 2021. The change of the status will influence export possibilities for Polish poultry meat and products to non-EU countries.

Following the 2020 and 2021 HPAI outbreaks, several important export markets banned Polish poultry and egg products, notably South Africa, China, South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and the Philippines. Ukraine, Belarus, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Saudi Arabia restricted Polish poultry imports based on a regionalization plan, however, they banned larger areas than Poland's regionalization recognized by the European Union. As a result of international negotiations, certain countries eased their restrictions, notably Singapore, and accepted the EU regionalization, making it a perspective market for exports of Polish poultry meat.

After Poland regained the status of a HPAI-free country, certain importing countries lifted their restrictions, for example, Azerbaijan, Belarus (partly), Kyrgyzstan (partly), Hong Kong, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the most profitable markets of China and South Africa have not yet re-opened since September 2021.

As per Polish Customs' data, in 2020, Poland exported poultry meat and products valued at \$3.2 billion. The main recipients were Germany (\$624 million), the United Kingdom (\$582 million), France (\$354 million), and the Netherlands (\$208 million). In January-August 2021, the value of these exports, despite struggling with numerous HPAI outbreaks in the country, was \$2.4 billion, a 17.7 percent increase, compared to the corresponding period of 2020.

Of these exports, turkey meat and products were valued at \$589 million, mainly destined to Germany (\$181 million), Spain (\$86 million), and the Czech Republic (\$44 million). In 2020, turkey meat and products exports from Poland were 19 percent lower than in 2019. In January-August 2021, the value of these exports was also lower (a 8.5 percent decrease) than in the corresponding period of 2020.

The EU countries, the main recipients of Polish poultry meat, recognize Polish regionalization and allow imports from HPAI-free areas. This approach is also applied by some non-EU trading partners, like the United Kingdom.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.