



Avian Influenza 2016

Summary

The number of reports of avian influenza has been increasing globally each year over the last decade. In the last couple of months, there have been a high number of reports in both wild birds particularly waterfowl and poultry in Europe. On December 16th, the first case was confirmed in turkeys in Lincolnshire. As of December 21st, there have not been any further outbreaks.

On December 6th, a Prevention order was put in place for poultry in England, Scotland and Wales. This requires poultry to be housed and introduces other measures specifically aimed at minimising the likelihood of poultry becoming infected. On December 16th, additional measures were required in the Protection and Surveillance zones.

On December 20th, a ban was put on poultry gatherings.

There is an association between the presence of infected migratory waterfowl and the appearance of disease in poultry.

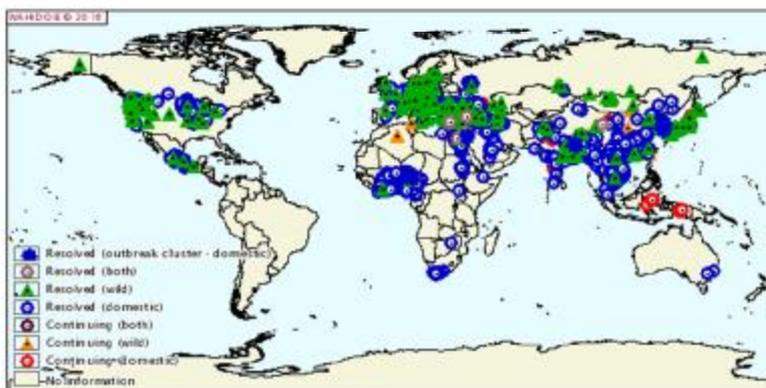
These notes detail the timeline of the current outbreak, explain some of the terms used, give the clinical signs associated with disease and suggest measures that can be taken to minimise the likelihood of your flock becoming infected.

Terrestrial: Highly path. avian influenza (- -) Aquatic: --- Aquatic --- Legend

Choose a species:
Wild species
Birds
--Other Species--
Bees

Period From: To:

Disease outbreak maps



http://bit.ly/OIE_HPAI_2006-2016



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Global reports of Avian Influenza in poultry and wild birds over the 11 years from 2006 to 2016

Definitions and clinical signs

The severity of the disease (formerly known as Fowl Plague) caused by avian influenza type A viruses varies with both the subtype of the virus and the species infected. For the purposes of clarity these definitions apply to the disease caused in fowl (chickens) under defined laboratory conditions.

- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** – often characterised by sudden high mortality and many depressed, sick birds in a flock. Additional signs include runny eyes and nose, gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling, swollen heads, purple colouration of the skin, comb and wattles, diarrhoea, anorexia and less eggs laid.
- **Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI)** – disease and infection unrecognised to mild and variable signs that can easily be missed such as depression, inappetence, low but elevated mortality, mild respiratory signs, swollen sinuses and egg production problems.

The following definitions are encompassed in UK law (Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No 2) Order 2006).

These measures are designed to prevent the spread of disease and protect poultry and captive birds.

- **Prevention Zone** – areas where extra biosecurity measures are required to protect poultry and captive birds from avian influenza or other notifiable disease.
- **Protection Zone** – an area of 3Km radius centred on the premises where an outbreak of notifiable disease has been confirmed. The measures that apply in this area are detailed in the enabling government order.
- **Surveillance Zone** – an area of 10Km radius centred on the premises where an outbreak of notifiable disease has been confirmed. This area encompasses the Protection Zone. The measures that apply in this area are detailed in the enabling government order.
- **Housing** – where practicable poultry should be confined to their housing. Hygiene and disinfection procedures should be put in place or enhanced as applicable.
- **Gatherings of poultry** – this includes:
 - fairs, markets, shows, sales or exhibitions
 - vehicles used for pigeon racing
- **Poultry** – as defined in Council Directive 2005/94/EC “means all birds that are reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, the production of other products, for restocking supplies of game birds or for the purposes of any breeding programme for the production of these categories of birds”. This would include fowl, turkey, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, quail and gamebirds in rear and release pens.
- **Wild bird** - as defined in Council Directive 2005/94/EC means “a free-living bird which is not kept on any holding as defined in point 8”. This includes gamebirds that have been released.



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Time line for current outbreak

1. Avian Influenza caused by several different subtypes of virus has been spreading globally over the last few years.
2. **December 1st**, HPAI (subtype H5N8) affecting wild birds (over 150 reports) and commercial poultry (35) reported in Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Israel, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Southern Russia and Ukraine.
3. Wild birds affected – Tufted ducks, Common Pochards, mute swans, gulls as well as other waterfowl, gulls and raptors.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573923/hpai-europe-update4.pdf
4. **December 6th**, all poultry should be housed where practicable and all efforts should be made to minimise contact either directly or indirectly with wild birds or their droppings.
 - a. Poultry should be kept confined in areas that prevent access by wild birds or their droppings.
 - b. If housing is not possible then take all practicable steps that minimise contact with wild birds whilst ensuring the health and welfare of your flock. If in doubt, discuss with your veterinary advisor or Defra.
 - c. Visitors should be banned, foot dips and protective clothing or clothing that is kept specifically for use when looking after your birds should be worn.
 - d. Feeders and drinkers should not be accessible to wild birds. All feed spillages should be promptly cleaned up.
 - e. Prevent access to any areas where wild waterfowl are present. Do not walk around ponds, lakes, canals or other water courses and then back to your poultry without changing clothes and footwear.
 - f. Discourage the presence of scavenging birds such as gulls and crows.
 - g. Check for the presence of mice and rats who could carry infected material into the pens and instigate control measures.

This order is due to be revoked on January 6th. However, this will depend on the avian influenza situation in the UK and Europe. The order could be extended.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#prevention-zone>

5. **December 16th**, HPAI subtype H5N8 confirmed in turkeys in Lincolnshire. 2,408 turkeys out of 2,428 died over 5 days.

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=21964

6. **December 16th**, Declaration of Protection and Surveillance zones around the birds on the infected farm. This details additional measures that need to be applied in those areas.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/578789/ai-pz-lincolnshire-161216.pdf



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7. **December 20th**, markets, shows and gatherings of poultry are banned in England, Wales and Scotland.

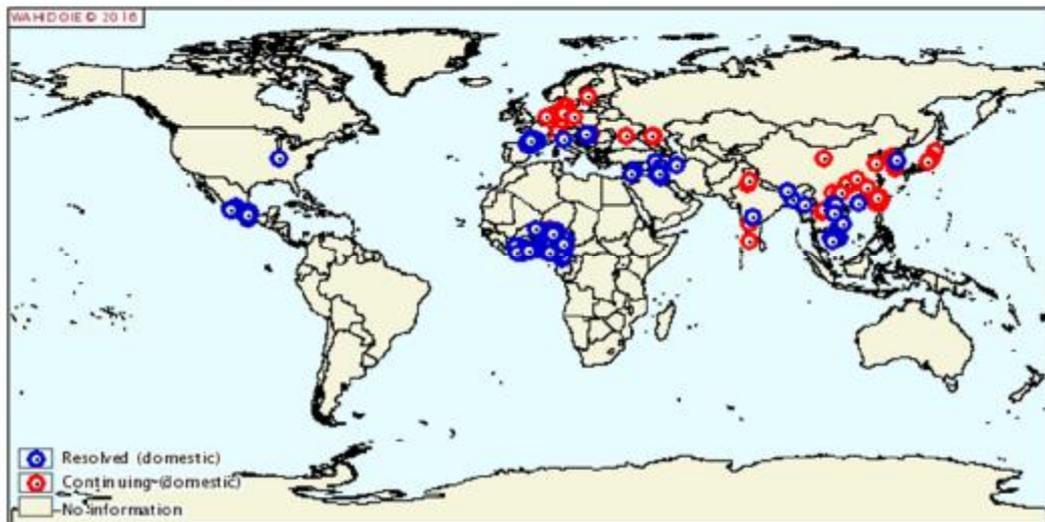
Conclusions

Choose a species:
Wild species
Birds
--Other Species--
Bees

OK

Period From: To: OK

Disease outbreak maps



Click on map to zoom in

Avian Influenza reports for 2106 – red = continuing, blue = resolved

Over the last 3 years, there has been at least one outbreak of avian influenza annually. This is usually associated with migrating waterfowl that over winter in the UK. Consequently, those areas that are near to migratory waterfowl habitats are at greater risk from disease.

I would suggest that you plan for at least one or two avian influenza outbreaks in the UK for the next 10 years.

All measures that you put in place now to protect your stock will be beneficial for years to come.

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21.12.2016