Czech Republic

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Bird Flu Situation in Slovakia

Report Categories:
Poultry and Products
Pest/Disease Occurrences
Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

Four cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), H5N8 type, were confirmed in captive birds in Slovakia. Three were found in a backyard flocks and one occurred in a Kosice zoo.
General Information:

The first occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Slovakia was confirmed on December 29, 2016, in Bratislava. Infection was detected among laying hens in a backyard in Bratislava, the Slovak capital. Within three days the infection killed the whole flock of 65 birds. As reported by the owner of the affected poultry, it was dedicated solely for personal consumption and so did not enter the market.

On January 3, 2017, HPAI was confirmed in a public Kosice zoo, in four Muscovy ducks. The sick ducks were killed the same day and the zoo has been closed to the public until further notice. According to an initial investigation, there are 341 birds in the zoo which are susceptible to the infection. Special veterinary measures were taken and a 3 km radius protection zone and 10 km radius surveillance zone around the focus of infection were established. Further investigations continue. The National Reference Laboratory in Zvolen that confirmed avian influenza virus subtype H5.

Two more outbreaks were confirmed on January 12 and 13 in backyard flocks in Presov and Trnava regions. No poultry products and animals were sent from infected holdings and all measures were taken by the State Veterinary Administration, in accordance with EU legislation. Commercial holdings were not affected so far. HPAI, type H5N8, was also confirmed in 24 wild birds (mainly swans) at various locations. Locations are provided at the Slovak State Veterinary and Food Administration website.

Slovak Ministry of agriculture describes the situation in Slovakia as mild, when compared to some other states and encourages poultry breeders and public to follow the biological safety rules and avoid contact of poultry with wild birds.

No dramatic poultry trade disruptions are foreseen as the main export markets for Slovak producers are European states.