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Poland

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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Spreads in Poland

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

As of January 4, 2017 there were 23 outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Poland. The majority of outbreak sites were located in Northwestern Poland close to the German border and in Southeastern Poland. Regions affected by HPAI are located on the traditional wild bird migration paths. The Polish Veterinary Service continues to notify the OIE and takes all necessary steps to avoid further spread of the disease. (See also GAIN Report [Outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) in Poland, Warsaw Poland 12-5-2016](#)).

General Information:

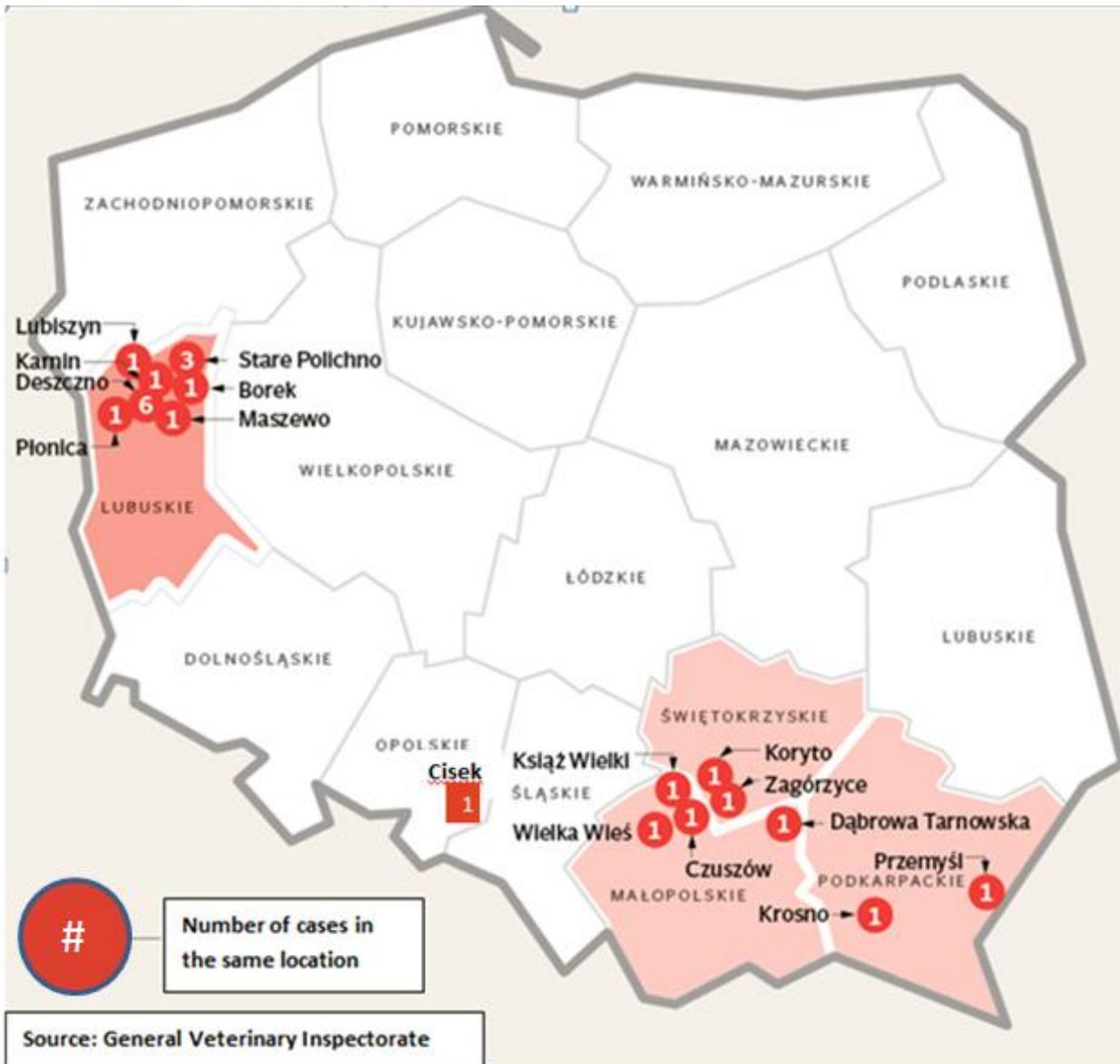
From December 3, 2016 to January 4, 2017 there were 23 outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Poland. Fourteen of them occurred in the Lubuskie Province in North Western Poland close to the border with Germany. In addition there were six outbreaks in Southern Poland north from Krakow, two outbreaks in Przemysl close to the Ukrainian border and one case in Opole Province (see a map below). The outbreaks of HPAI of subtype H5N8 were confirmed by the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza at the State Veterinary Institute - National Research Institute in Pulawy. Although the source of infection of birds has not been determined, experts do not exclude that migrating wild birds brought the disease. The northern part of the Lubuskie Province is a natural area where the annual migrations of many flocks of wild geese, cranes and other species of wild birds take place.

Out of 23 outbreaks 9 occurred in commercial turkey farms (170,000 birds), two in free range farms of geese (1,600 birds), two in commercial duck farms (89,000 birds), one in a commercial chicken farm (33,000 birds) and nine in small back-yard poultry flocks.

In all cases local veterinary services implemented all procedures required to combat cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry. Simultaneously, the Chief Veterinary Inspectorate urged poultry producers to implement special precautions and compliance with bio-security measures, which limit the risk of spreading the virus. On December 20, 2016 the Minister of Agriculture issued a regulation regarding special measures introduced by the government in fighting HPAI. The regulation gives additional administrative authority to the veterinary inspection in the introduction of biosecurity measures and specifies fines which will be implemented in case farmers do not follow the instructions and regulations of the veterinary service. In addition to financial fines farmers may not receive their insurance or CAP payments when they do not obey biosecurity regulations.

Poland is the largest producer of poultry in the European Union, exporting almost 30 percent of poultry meat production. In the first nine months of 2016 the value of Polish export of poultry meat amounted to U.S. \$1.4 billion and was 8 percent higher than in the same period of the previous year. In the first three quarters of 2016 88 percent of poultry meat was shipped within the European Union and 12 percent to third countries. Germany, Great Britain and France were the major importers of Polish poultry meat within the EU. Hong Kong, China and Ukraine were the major importers of poultry meat outside of the EU. Although Polish exports outside of the EU are expected to decrease because of the outbreak, the main impact of the HPAI outbreak on Polish poultry industry will have reduced demand from EU importers which also suffer from reduced exports caused by HPAI outbreaks.

Map of HPAI outbreak sites as of January 4, 2017



End of the Report.