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Your file no.:

Highly pathogenic H5N1 in poultry in Denmark

A detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 in Denmark was done in a backyard holding near the city of Kerteminde in Funen County on 18 May 2006.

The holding consisted of 102 poultry (41 ducks, 51 chickens, 5 geese, 3 guinea fowls and 2 peacocks). The holding is located in an area where a surveillance zone, in respect of a case of HPAI H5N1 in a wild bird, previously was in place (removed on 8 May 2006). The closest poultry holding is 1.2 km from the affected holding, it is a backyard holding.

Source of infection

The most likely source of infection is direct or indirect introduction by wild birds. The holding is situated close to a small stream. The animals have not been confined according to the Danish legislation on biosecurity measures implemented in connection with the detection of H5N1 in wild birds.

Eradication measures

18 May 2006	Confirmation of HPAI H5N1 Killing of animals in affected holding Establishing protection and surveillance zones and area A and B
23 May 2006	Initiation of preliminary cleaning and disinfection of affected holding
29 May 2006	Expected approval of preliminary cleaning and disinfection of affected holding.

Movement from the herd

There has not been any contact with other poultry holdings and no movement of poultry from or to the holding for at least 21 days before the clinical symptoms started.

Holdings in zones

All backyard holdings within the protection and surveillance zone are being registered.

Protection zone:

There is one commercial holding with 130 layers. Official veterinarians have visited the holding and inspected the poultry for clinical signs of disease with negative results.

On 24 May 43 backyard holdings have been registered. All the backyard holdings will be visited and inspected during this week.

Surveillance zone:

There are 27 commercial holdings (excluding the one in the protection zone) Of those are four holdings with broilers, in total 181.000 animals and three holdings with free range layers, in total 15.137 animals. The remaining holdings have minor poultry production. Official veterinarians will visit these holdings and inspect the poultry for clinical signs of disease during this week.

On 24 May 448 backyard holdings have been registered (excluding those in the protection zone).

Laboratory investigation

The detection has been done by PCR followed by sequencing at the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research. The sequencing showed that the virus is an avian influenza type H5N1 identical with virus, which previously this year has been isolated from wild birds in Denmark. Virus isolation is initiated.

Further laboratory investigation has been initiated from the 55 animals killed at the holding, which did not reveal any clinical signs. The serological results have been one duck and one hen with titre 16 for H5 and one guinea fowl with titre 16 for H7. The tests have been done by haemagglutination inhibition (HI). The virological tests are still in process.

Regionalisation of Denmark

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration hereby informs that when issuing Danish export certificates to third countries covering live birds and day-old chicks, hatching eggs, fresh poultry meat, including minced meat and meat preparations, mechanically separated meat and meat products, fresh meat and meat products from farmed and wild feathered game, eggs for human consumption and egg products and animal by-products, the consignments will not contain commodities originating from or produced in the Funen County, i.e. the established zones or the established areas A or B, cf. articles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Commission Decision 2006/135/EC.