



CHIEF INSPECTORATE
VETERINARY

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Announcement of the Chief Veterinary Officer on the epizootic situation regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza in Poland in 2025

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As of 16 April 2025, 79 outbreaks of HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza) were found in poultry in Poland this year, with a total of 6.85 million animals kept.

HPAI outbreaks in individual voivodeships:

Wielkopolskie Voivodeship - 38 outbreaks with 3.45 million poultry in total

Mazowieckie - 21 outbreaks with a total of 3.03 million poultry

Łódź Voivodeship - 5 outbreaks with 0.07 million poultry in total

Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship - 7 outbreaks with 0.16 million poultry in total

Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, Lubuskie Voivodeship - 2 outbreaks with 0.02 poultry in total

Małopolskie, Podkarpackie, Świętokrzyskie, Zachodniopomorskie - 1 outbreak with 0.12 million poultry in total

Throughout 2024, 50 outbreaks were found in Poland, and in 2022 and 2023 - 68 outbreaks of HPAI in poultry each.

Epizootic situation in Europe:

Country	Poultry outbreaks	Wildbird campfires
Poland	79	49
Hungary	79	20
Italy	21	14
Germany	9	124
Bulgaria	6	1

At the beginning of April this year, the European Commission informed the Chief Veterinary Officer that the assessment of the epizootic situation with regard to HPAI in Poland raises deep concern of the European Commission. In the Commission's opinion, the measures taken by the Polish side to reduce the occurrence of HPAI infections in poultry are insufficient, which threatened epizootic safety on the intra-Community market.

In view of the above, the EC has planned to launch the procedure under Article 259 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, i.e. the adoption of extraordinary measures against Poland due to the serious risk of the disease spreading. The emergency measures presented by the EC would initially concern a ban on settling livestock facilities in which poultry is commercially kept in the following voivodeships: Wielkopolskie, Łódzkie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Mazowieckie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie, and restrictions on the movement of poultry except for movement to slaughterhouses.

Since 4 April this year, the Chief Veterinary Officer has held a number of meetings with representatives of the European Commission, presenting detailed information on the actions taken by the Veterinary Inspection in connection with HPAI outbreaks in Poland, an assessment of the impact of the planned decisions on the functioning of the poultry industry and related activities operating throughout the poultry production chain, as well as economic effects and potential losses in the poultry industry, that the decision announced by the EC could cause. In addition, the Chief Veterinary Officer, presenting the epizootic situation with regard to HPAI to the EC, justified the disproportionality of the planned measures in relation to the vast majority of the territory indicated by the EC.

From the beginning of the negotiations, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Permanent Representation of Poland to the European Union were involved in the activities.

On 12-14 April this year, an action plan was developed. The culmination of the work was a meeting of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Chief Veterinary Officer with representatives of

the leading associations of the poultry industry and poultry and egg producers, during which 13 key directions were jointly agreed that require immediate action from Poland, and which were presented to the EC as an alternative to the planned decisions to introduce emergency measures.

The measures that are subject to immediate implementation by poultry producers and breeders and the Veterinary Inspection, which have been adopted by the EC, are:

1. **Extension of the time between poultry insertions to 14 days** combined with additional, official control of disinfection.
2. **Increase the risk area** in case of confirmed outbreak by an additional 5 km.
3. **Inspection of verified biosecurity plans by veterinarians**, with particular emphasis on the current epizootic situation **at the district level**, signed by the veterinarian in charge of the herd. Cases of finding an outbreak and the occurrence of inconsistency of the actual state with the biosecurity plan will result in the lack of compensation.
4. Introduction of weekly **monitoring in restricted areas - the health of birds and sampling** in cooperation with the veterinarian in charge of the flock and the district veterinarian.
5. **Adjustment of the stocking / density of facilities** by imposing a maximum stocking rate, defined by the PLW for each farm in which settlement is planned in the coming weeks; prohibition of issuing derogations for increasing staffing;
6. **Farms with outbreaks - minimum break in production 40 days** from **final** disinfection, admission to production after PLW inspection, verification of cleanliness tests confirming the absence of HPAI virus, ND; populating with indicator animals and keeping only indicator animals for 21 days;
7. **Teams for catching during loading** - in endangered areas, extended by 5 km, creation by plants of schedules and zones/areas of operation/work of specific groups of people by indicating them (as an element of biosecurity) - **the principle "the whole chicken coop full - the whole chicken coop empty"**.
8. Designation of employees for individual farms - dedicated **to** only one farm, employees with a ban on work or even incidental movement to other facilities (a list of staff with declarations on no contact with poultry and wild birds living outside the workplace, and having knowledge about the prohibition of contact with the carcasses of poultry and wild birds living for **72 hours before starting** work.
9. Poultry Hatchery Plants - sending the schedule of transports of day-old eggs and chicks at least 72 hours in advance to the PLW competent for the place of business and to the PLW appropriate for the place of destination.
10. **Ban on organizing exhibitions, fairs, shows and other gatherings of birds** in provinces where HPAI outbreaks are not extinguished during the period of restrictions.
11. **Notification of transports** - sending the schedule of transports of day-old eggs and chicks at least 72 hours in advance to the PLW competent for the place of business and to the PLW appropriate for the

place of destination; The PLW of destination introduces a ban on the insertion of chicks if the result of the biosecurity inspection turns out to be unsatisfactory.

12. The requirement to disinfect vehicles delivering feed/collecting the UPPZ each time before entering the farm (to be included in biosecurity plans);

13. Issuance of a regulation by the PLW on the basis of Article 45(1)(4) and (11) of the Act on the Protection of Animal Health and Combating Infectious Diseases of Animals **from the moment of suspicion until the results of the test are obtained**, which will prohibit the PLW from settling farms in the area of 3 km (after obtaining the result - depending - territorial extension of the ban or repeal of the regulation)

On 15-16 April, further meetings of the Chief Veterinary Officer with the European Commission were held, during which the EC adopted the proposed alternative measures and it was agreed that the above-mentioned measures would apply only in three clusters:

1. Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship covering the area of administrative territories of municipalities where restrictions specific to protection and risk areas are currently in force, designated in connection with outbreak No. 64/2025 in the Ostróda and Olsztyn districts and some municipalities in the Działdowo district - as part of the Mazovian cluster
2. Mazowieckie, including the Żuromin County, part of the Mława and Płońsk Districts, where the restrictions applicable to the protection and risk areas, designated in connection with HPAI outbreaks, are currently in force,
3. Wielkopolskie, covering the entire counties of Grodzisk, Kościański, Kalisz, Jarociński and parts of the counties of Krotoszyn, Nowy Tomyśl, Szamotuły, Wolsztyn, Poznań, Śrem, Gostyński, Pleszew, Ostrów and Ostrzeszów within the administrative boundaries of municipalities where restrictions specific to protection and risk areas are currently in force, designated in connection with HPAI outbreaks.

The measures agreed and adopted by the EC should be implemented immediately. The evaluation of the implementation of the measures will be carried out by the EC on 22 - 24 April as part of the EU-VET mission in Poland. A key element of maintaining the status quo and quickly removing the areas will be the lack of new outbreaks of avian influenza in the above-mentioned areas.



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