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Hungary

Poultry and Products

GOH Confirms 1st Case of Avian Influenza in Commercial Poultry

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Report Highlights:

On June 9, the Animal Health Laboratory of the Hungarian National Veterinary Institute confirmed the presence of H5 avian influenza (AI) in dead ducks originating from a farm at Bodoglar in Kiskunmajsa located in south central Hungary. Samples were sent to the EU reference laboratory in Weybridge, UK for further testing for the deadly H5N1 strain. A second location near Bodoglar at Szank is also under investigation. Hungarian veterinary authorities destroyed all 3,000 poultry on the infected farm in Bodoglar, as well as 19,000 birds at the Szank location. About 300,000 birds (mainly ducks and some geese) located in a one-kilometer radius from the finding will be destroyed and incinerated at a rendering plant early this week. The Government of Hungary will provide compensation for damages resulting from the emergency measures. The cause of the outbreak and full extent of losses are still unknown.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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A three-kilometer protection zone and ten-kilometer surveillance zone have been established around Bodoglar and Szank, the infected locations in Bacs-Kiskun County. Officials have also ordered that all poultry be housed indoors in a wider "defensive" zone for neighboring Csongrad County. The two areas include the majority of Hungary's commercial goose and duck production.

Ducks and geese are economically important branches of poultry production in Hungary. In April 2006 the number of ducks was around 3.184 million and geese numbered 1.789 million.

A full ban on the transport of live poultry and hatching eggs was ordered in the protection, surveillance, and defensive zones until June 13. People are free to move in and out of these areas, excluding a zone one-kilometer in radius from the infected farms. The Hungarian Public Health Authority inoculated emergency workers involved in the outbreak mediation actions.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) does not yet know the source of the outbreak. According to Ministry sources, the Government of Hungary will provide 100 percent compensation for damages related to the veterinary emergency actions. The spokesman of MARD stressed that poultry meat sold in stores and restaurants has been inspected and is safe.