

DISCLAIMER

The OIE, after performing an administrative and technical screening of a self-declaration concerning the disease-free status of a country, a zone or a compartment ("self-declaration"), as described in the standard operating procedures for self-declarations, reserves the right to publish or not the self-declaration on its website. There shall be no right of appeal from this decision nor any recourse of any kind.

The publication by the OIE of a self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of the OIE.

Responsibility for the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the OIE Delegate of the Member concerned.

Neither the OIE nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for:

- (i) any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the content of a self-declaration,
- (ii) the use which may be made of the information contained in a self-declaration;
- (iii) any direct or indirect consequences of any nature arising from or relating to the use of the information contained in a self-declaration.

Self-declaration of Belgium on the recovery of the infection-free status of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses in poultry

Declaration sent to the OIE on 13 May 2022 by Dr Herman Claeys (Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and the Environment), Delegate of Belgium to the OIE, and Dr Jean-François Heymans (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain), Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of Belgium, and Deputy Delegate of Belgium to the OIE

AVIAN INFLUENZA SITUATION IN BELGIUM - 2021-2022

During October 2021, numerous cases of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) type H5 have been identified in wild birds and poultry in northern, southern and south-eastern Europe. In addition, the H5N8 avian influenza virus identified during the winter period of 2020-2021 has continued to circulate at low levels in local European bird populations. On 15 November 2021, the "increased risk period" was declared in Belgium following the confirmation on 12 November 2021 of the HPAI virus subtype H5N1 in a wild bird (Barnacle Goose) in the province of Antwerp. Despite additional biosecurity measures to contain the spread of the virus following the introduction of the increased risk period, several outbreaks of HPAI subtype H5N1 have been confirmed in Belgium in four poultry farms and in two captive bird keepers.

Outbreak in poultry

On 8 December 2021, two separate outbreaks of HPAI subtype H5N1 were confirmed on the same day in Belgium in two poultry farms (a broiler farm located in Alveringem and a breeder farm located in Ravels). As a result, Belgium lost its OIE status as "free of highly pathogenic avian influenza".

On 28 December 2021, a new outbreak of HPAI subtype H5N1 was confirmed in a poultry farm located in Veurne (laying hens). In 2022, only one outbreak of HPAI was confirmed in poultry. This was an outbreak of HPAI subtype H5N1 confirmed on 29 March in Meulebeke in a breeding hen farm.

These four outbreaks of HPAI in poultry farms were detected through sampling and testing under the enhanced vigilance. Increased mortality was observed in all four HPAI outbreaks and clinical signs suggestive of HPAI infection

(lethargy, respiratory signs, nervous and digestive symptoms) were observed in all outbreaks except for the outbreak in Alveringem in broilers.

Each of these poultry outbreaks was fully sanitised in accordance with Chapter 7.6. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* and the premises were cleaned and disinfected. For the fourth and final infected poultry farm (Meulebeke outbreak), culling operations were carried out on 29 March 2022, followed by cleaning and disinfection on 30 March 2022.

The measures were progressively lifted given the favourable epidemiological situation. The event was closed on 29 April 2022 with the lifting of the zones around the outbreak in Meulebeke, i.e. 30 days after the cleaning and disinfection operations in this fourth and last outbreak involving poultry.

All these events have been reported to the OIE World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS). An overview of the notifications can be found in Annex 2.

INTENSIFIED MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE IN RESPONSE TO OUTBREAKS

1. Measures in outbreaks

Belgium has implemented a strict and structured strategy to stop the spread of the disease, eradicate the virus and sanitise the outbreaks. This control strategy included control measures in accordance with the provisions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0687&qid=1619596242355>). All control measures and inspections were carried out by the FASFC (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain - Belgian Health Authority). These measures include the establishment of restriction zones, the application of strict biosecurity measures and the implementation of a monitoring programme in accordance with the provisions of Articles 10.4. 26. to 10.4.30. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

For all outbreaks of HPAI in the four **professional poultry keepers** as well as for an identified outbreak in a captive bird dealer holding more than 50 animals, restriction zones with a radius of 3 km (protection zone) and 10 km (surveillance zone) were established. These restriction zones provided for a ban on the movement of poultry, their products (hatching eggs, eggs for consumption, manure, etc.), equipment, vehicles, etc. between poultry farms, the slaughter of poultry on infected premises, the confinement of poultry kept in these zones, the safe destruction of carcasses and contaminated equipment, the cleaning and disinfection of infected facilities and the application of hygiene measures for personnel, trucks, equipment, etc.

The farms in the protection zone were visited and clinically investigated by FASFC inspectors. In total, more than 289,000 poultry and captive birds were killed.

Thirty days after the establishment of the restriction zones around the HPAI outbreaks, as no clinical signs of avian influenza were observed and the result of the final virological monitoring carried out in each professional poultry holding located in the restriction zones was favourable, each zone was declared free of the disease and the restriction zones were lifted. An overview of the location of the outbreaks notified in Belgium between 7 December 2021 and 29 March 2022 and of the restriction zones that have been delimited is given in Annex 3.

Due to the presence of five outbreaks of HPAI in poultry on the territory of a neighbouring country within 10 km of the Belgian border, restriction zones were also delimited in Belgium in continuity with the neighbouring country zones. These restriction zones provided for the application of the same measures and surveillance as in the case of the outbreaks on Belgian territory.

2. Epidemiological survey (

The Health Authority (FASFC) identified the contacts that occurred between infected flocks and other poultry farms and examined the possible sources of virus introduction. In addition, it carried out an upstream and downstream tracing by asking the keepers about all contacts that had occurred during the month preceding the report of the

suspicion. In addition, it visited the farms that had supplied products or live animals to check for the presence of avian influenza virus. No epidemiological links were found, and no other outbreaks were identified.

However, during the culling and cleaning and disinfection operations in the HPAI outbreak identified in Ravels, a preventive cull of all breeding hens and cleaning and disinfection operations were also carried out in the owner's second establishment, as the two establishments were located on opposite sides of the street and represented a greater risk of contamination.

The source of the infection in the various outbreaks is not formally identified, but probably originated from transmission via wild birds. For the outbreaks notified in Ravels and Veurne, introduction of the virus via the ventilation system is suspected. The first clinical signs were observed in poultry located near the entrance to the ventilation system. Wild birds infected with HPAI virus were also found in these two areas. Thus, the pressure of infection from wild birds and the location of the first cases in these farms point to this route of entry as a likely source of virus introduction.

3. Laboratory analysis

Samples from the outbreaks and contact farms were analysed by the Sciensano national reference laboratory. 116 analyses were carried out between 7 December 2021 and 31 March 2022 (see details in Annex 4). All the tests carried out in the contact farms were negative.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

On 15 November 2021, the increased risk period was determined and additional biosecurity measures were put in place throughout Belgium. These measures include the compulsory confinement of poultry and other captive birds (except ratites) for professional holdings and private holders; the obligation to water and feed poultry and birds indoors; the prohibition to water poultry and birds with surface water or rainwater accessible to wild birds and the loosening of poultry may only take place under conditions determined by the FASFC. Furthermore, gatherings of poultry and hobby poultry, including public markets, are prohibited, with the exception of non-commercial gatherings of hobby poultry (exhibitions, competitions, etc.) or public markets of hobby poultry organised by a local authority, which are allowed under certain conditions defined by the FASFC. These measures can also be consulted at any time on the website of the FASFC (<https://www.favv-afscab.be/professionnels/productionanimale/santeanimale/grippeaviaire/>).

In order to maintain the free status of Belgium, biosecurity measures and a surveillance programme in domestic and wild birds are maintained as described in the following point.

In addition, strict conditions are imposed on poultry imported into Belgium. A health certificate attested by an official veterinarian is required proving that the poultry meets the requirements in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the animal health requirements for the movement of land animals and hatching eggs within the Union and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 of 30 January 2020 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to rules for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin, and the movement and handling of such consignments after their entry into the Union. Important poultry establishments in Belgium must, inter alia, be located outside a restricted zone following an outbreak of HPAI and must not be suspected of having HPAI. These measures comply with the provisions of Articles 10.4.7. to 10.4.22. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Belgium has for many years established a programme of passive and active monitoring and surveillance in wild birds and on domestic poultry holdings to maintain the HPAI-free status of poultry. This programme is co-financed by the European Commission, and is the subject of two sixmonthly reports and one annual report.

The surveillance programme is in accordance with Chapter 1.4. and Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The programme includes the following elements:

1. Obligation to report any clinical suspicion of avian influenza

Veterinarians and owners of poultry and other birds who observe clinical signs that could lead to the suspicion of an avian influenza infection or a high daily mortality in a facility must immediately report this to the FASFC Health Authority. All suspected cases of avian influenza are immediately investigated by the FASFC. Samples are taken and sent to the Belgian national reference laboratory Sciensano for further analysis.

Mandatory notification of HPAI and infection with LPAI viruses is mentioned in Belgian (Royal Decree of 3 February 2014 designating notifiable diseases) and European legislation (RE (EU) 2016/429 : <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/search.html?scope=EURLEX&text=2016%2F429&lang=en&type=quick&qid=1619708479803>).

During the year 2021 and until 06 May 2022, 5 suspected cases in captive birds (4 in hobby farmers and 1 in a captive bird dealer) and 8 suspected cases in poultry farms (1 hatchery, 4 broiler farms and 3 layer farm) were notified. These suspicions were all investigated and samples were sent to the Sciensano national reference laboratory for analysis. All results were negative for avian influenza.

2. Vigilance network

A permanent surveillance network is in place. Information on the avian influenza situation in Belgium and neighbouring countries is regularly provided to veterinarians, representatives of the poultry sector (farmers of poultry and pet birds), stakeholders such as hunters and the general public. Updates on clinical signs of active avian influenza virus strains and susceptible species are also provided. This information is communicated through stakeholder meetings, training, newsletters and press releases. Moreover, this information is also available at any time on the website of the FASFC (<https://www.favv-afscab.be/professionnels/productionanimale/santeanimale/grippeaviaire/>). These different information channels are also used to raise awareness among the different actors to maintain their vigilance and to report suspected cases. Information on the epidemiological situation is communicated to the Delegates of the Member Countries through meetings or targeted communications. A free telephone number is available to the general public and professionals to report cases of mortality in wildlife.

3. Biosafety and sensitive natural areas

In addition to the obligation to report any suspicion, Belgium has put in place additional containment and biosecurity obligations for commercial farms in so-called "sensitive natural areas", i.e. in the vicinity of a wildlife gathering place (<http://www.afsca.be/santeanimale/grippeaviaire/zonesnaturelles/>) (Map available in Annex 5).

4. Serological surveillance programme co-funded by the European Commission

An active surveillance programme in which the susceptible poultry population is subject to regular clinical examinations and active monitoring has existed in Belgium for many years. The active surveillance is compulsory according to European legislation. According to the official control programme of the FASFC, serum samples are taken from a representative population of Belgian professional poultry farms for human consumption. All holdings with more than 200 birds of ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, partridges, pheasants, hens and broiler pigeons, except broiler chicken holdings, as well as the establishments of traders keeping these species, are sampled once a year. In holdings located in sensitive areas and in holdings with outdoor runs, as well as in all turkey, duck and goose holdings, a second visit shall be carried out during the year with a minimum interval of 3 months between each blood sample. Ten samples per farm are taken except in dealer establishments and duck and goose farms where 20 samples are taken.

The serological surveillance programme is co-financed by the European Commission and is reported on twice a year. In 2021, 9,185 birds were sampled (details in Appendix 6).

5. Surveillance in wild birds

Wild birds found dead are subject to event-based surveillance managed by the Regions (federated entities, competent for wildlife) in consultation with the FASFC.

The Belgian government has set up a free telephone number for the public to report the discovery of several dead birds in one place. The birds are sent to the Sciensano reference laboratory and samples are analysed to confirm or exclude avian influenza. In 2021, 300 dead birds were analysed and for the year 2022, until 20 February, 107 dead birds were analysed. Between 5 November 2021 and 6 May 2022, 88 of these wild birds were confirmed positive for HPAI (see Table 2 in Annex 2).

Active surveillance is also carried out in wild birds during ringing activities by ornithologists. Cloacal samples are taken from birds and analysed by Sciensano. In 2021, 448 birds were sampled and for the year 2022, until 20 February, 128 wild birds were sampled. In 2021, two cases of HPAI H5N8 were diagnosed, one in a seagull (*larus marinus*, line 19) and one in a white-fronted goose (*anser albifrons* line 22). No cases of HPAI in wild birds were detected through active surveillance until 20 February 2022.

CONCLUSIONS

The following facts can be highlighted:

1. Strict control and eradication measures have been adopted, including total culling of birds and cleaning and disinfection of all affected farms, in accordance with OIE provisions;
2. Surveillance has been carried out in accordance with Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*;
3. Products are imported in accordance with Articles 10.4.7. to 10.4.22.
4. An ongoing awareness programme is in place to encourage reporting of suspected highly pathogenic avian influenza;
5. As of 27 April 2022, i.e. 28 days after the stamping out (i.e. cleaning and disinfection of the last affected establishment) carried out on 30 March 2022, no further outbreaks have occurred in poultry, which, in conjunction with the other measures and in application of Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*, allows Belgium to regain its status as free from infection with highly pathogenic avian influenza

The OIE Delegate of Belgium declares that the country meets the requirements to declare freedom from highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry as of 27 April 2022, in accordance with Chapter 1.6. and Article 10.4.6. of the OIE Terrestrial Code (2021) and in accordance with the information provided to OIE-WAHIS.

Annex 1: Declaration by the Delegate of Belgium to the OIE

Declaration to be included in the self-declaration document.

I, the undersigned, Dr Herman CLAEYS

Delegate of BELGIUM to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), is responsible for the self-declaration "**Free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry**".

DISCLAIMER

The OIE, after performing an administrative and technical screening of a self-declaration concerning the disease-free status of a country, a zone or a compartment ("self-declaration"), as described in the standard operating procedures for self-declarations, reserves the right to publish or not the self-declaration on its website. There shall be no right of appeal from this decision nor any recourse of any kind.

The publication by the OIE of a self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of the OIE.

Responsibility for the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the OIE Delegate of the Member concerned.

Neither the OIE nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for:

- i. any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the content of a self-declaration,
- ii. the use which may be made of the information contained in a self-declaration;
- iii. any direct or indirect consequences of any nature arising from or relating to the use of the information contained in a self-declaration.

Written on

Signature of the Delegate:

Annex 2: Overview of notifications in the OIE World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS)

Table 1: List of HPAI outbreaks in poultry and captive birds in Belgium from 7 December 2021 to 30 March 2022.

Outbreak	Virus strain	Confirmation	Province	Type of holding	Number of animals	% Mortality	Measures	Established :	Lifted :
Alveringem	IAHP H5N1	08/12/2021	WVL	<u>Poultry farm</u> (broilers)	26.460	4,85	Protection zone: 3 km	08/12/2021	29/12/2021
							Surveillance zone: 10 km	08/12/2021	07/01/2022
Ravels	IAHP H5N1	08/12/2021	ANT	<u>Poultry farm</u> (breeding hens)	38.978	1,03	Protection zone: 3 km	08/12/2021	29/12/2021
							Surveillance zone: 10 km	08/12/2021	07/01/2022
Veurne	IAHP H5N1	28/12/2021	WVL	<u>Poultry farm</u> (laying hens)	162.000	0,04	Protection zone: 3 km	28/12/2021	18/01/2022
							Surveillance zone: 10 km	28/12/2021	27/01/2022
Bocholt	IAHP H5N1	07/01/2022	LIM	<u>Captive birds</u> (dealer - ornamental birds of various species)	5.111	4,77	Protection zone: 3 km	07/01/2022	28/01/2022
							Surveillance zone: 10 km	07/01/2022	06/02/2022
Vrasene	IAHP H5N1	07/03/2022	OVL	<u>Captive birds</u> (private keeper with less than 50 captive birds)	44	31,82	NA	NA	NA
Meulebeke	IAHP H5N1	29/03/2022	WVL	<u>Poultry farm</u> (breeding hens)	18.859	1,02	Protection zone: 3 km	30/03/2022	20/04/2022
							Surveillance zone: 10 km	30/03/2022	29/04/2022

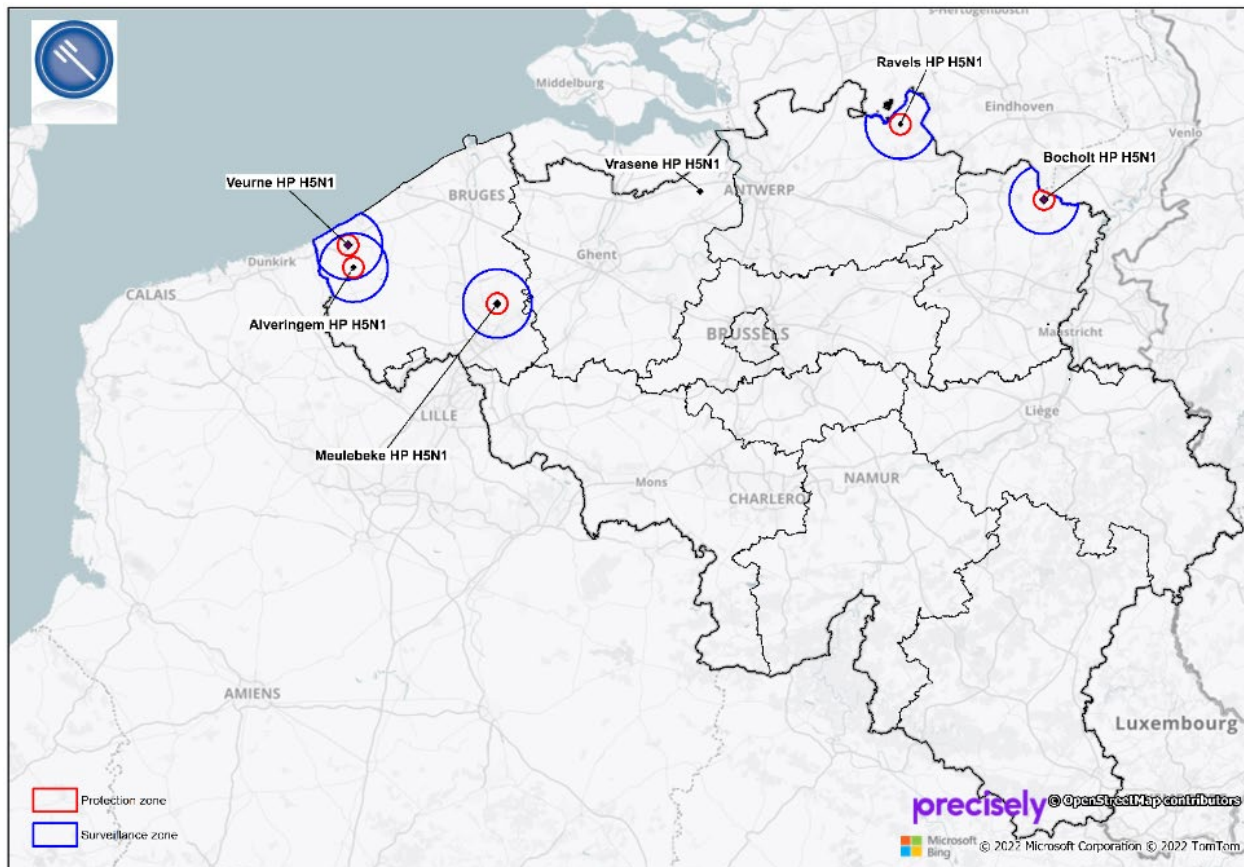
Table 2: List of HPAI cases in wild birds in Belgium from 05/11/2021 to 06/05/2022.

	Species	Location	Province	Number of cases	Strain	Sampling date
1	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Ekeren	ANT	1	H5N1	05/11/2021
2	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Oostende	WVL	1	H5N1	11/11/2021
3	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Oostende	WVL	1	H5N1	11/11/2021
4	<i>Arenaria Interpres</i>	Oostende	WVL	1	H5N1	12/11/2021
5	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Bree	LIM	1	H5Nx	15/11/2021
6	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Zonhoven	LIM	1	H5N1	15/11/2021
7	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Zandhoven	ANT	1	H5N1	15/11/2021
8	<i>Anser anser domesticus</i>	Duffel	ANT	1	H5Nx	15/11/2021
9	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Merksem	ANT	1	H5N1	16/11/2021
10	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Oostende	WVL	1	H5N1	19/11/2021
11	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Alveringem	WVL	1	H5N1	20/11/2021
12	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Oudenburg	WVL	1	H5N1	21/11/2021
13	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Diksmuide	WVL	1	H5N1	01/12/2021
14	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Alveringem	WVL	1	H5N1	10/12/2021
15	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Oostende	WVL	1	H5N1	10/12/2021
16	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Lo-reninge	WVL	1	H5N1	17/12/2021
17	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Nijlen	ANT	1	H5N1	21/12/2021
18	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Drongen	OVL	1	H5N1	21/12/2021
19	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Bredene	WVL	1	H5N1	21/12/2021
20	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Oostakker	OVL	1	H5N1	22/12/2021
21	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Waarschoot	OVL	1	H5N1	23/12/2021
22	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	De Haan	VLB	1	H5N1	23/12/2021
23	<i>Pica pica</i>	Oostduinkerke	WVL	1	H5N1	24/12/2021
24	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Desselgem	WVL	1	H5N1	24/12/2021
25	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Gistel	WVL	1	H5N1	27/12/2021
26	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Merksem (Anvers)	ANT	1	H5N1	29/12/2021
27	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Papelenvijver (Deinze)	OVL	1	H5N1	29/12/2021
28	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Wondelgem	OVL	1	H5N1	30/12/2021
29	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Ichtegem	WVL	1	H5N1	01/01/2022
30	<i>Anser anser</i>	Ichtegem	WVL	1	H5N1	01/01/2022
31	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Middelkerke	WVL	1	H5N1	03/01/2022
32	<i>Colombia livia</i>	Gent	OVL	1	H5Nx	03/01/2022
33	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Zegelsem	OVL	1	H5N1	03/01/2022
34	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Lombardsijde	WVL	1	H5N1	04/01/2022
35	<i>Anser anser</i>	Lommel	LIM	1	H5Nx	04/01/2022

36	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Kapellen	ANT	1		H5N1	06/01/2022
37	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Maasmechelen	LIM	1		H5N1	09/01/2022
38	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Dilsen-Stokkem	LIM	1		H5N1	13/01/2022
39	<i>Anser anser</i>	Maasmechelen	LIM	1		H5N1	15/01/2022
40	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	St-Martens Lathem	OVL	1		H5N1	17/01/2022
41	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Brasschaat	ANT	1		H5N1	20/01/2022
42	<i>Anser anser domesticus</i>	Oud-Heverlee	VLB	1		H5N1	20/01/2022
43	<i>Larus canus</i>	Berchem	ANT	1		H5N1	21/01/2022
44	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Gent	OVL	1		H5N1	22/01/2022
45	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Gent	OVL	1		H5Nx	23/01/2022
46	<i>Columbia livia domestica</i>	Gent	OVL	1		H5Nx	23/01/2022
47	<i>Anser anser</i>	Ougrée	LIE	1		H5N1	23/01/2022
48	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Oud-Heverlee	VLB	1		H5N1	24/01/2022
49	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Zeebrugge	WVL	1		H5N1	24/01/2022
50	<i>Anser anser domesticus</i>	Oud-Heverlee	VLB	1		H5N1	25/01/2022
51	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blankenberge	WVL	1		H5N1	25/01/2022
52	<i>Anser anser domesticus</i>	Oud-Heverlee	VLB	1		H5N1	26/01/2022
53	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Verrebroek	OVL	2		H5N1	28/01/2022
54	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Verrebroek	OVL	1		H5N1	28/01/2022
55	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Verrebroek	OVL	1		H5N1	28/01/2022
56	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Wuustwezel	ANT	1		H5N1	30/01/2022
57	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Duffel	ANT	1		H5N1	31/01/2022
58	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Wemmel	VLB	1		H5Nx	01/02/2022
59	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Wemmel	VLB	1		H5Nx	01/02/2022
60	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Doel	OVL	1		H5N1	01/02/2022
61	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Doel	OVL	4		H5N1	01/02/2022
62	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Doel	OVL	1		H5N1	01/02/2022
63	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Geel	ANT	1		H5N1	01/02/2022
64	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Geraardsbergen	OVL	1		H5N1	02/02/2022
65	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Evergem	OVL	1		H5N1	02/02/2022
66	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Oud-Turnhout	ANT	1		H5Nx	03/02/2022
67	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Dessel	ANT	1		H5N1	03/02/2022
68	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Kalmthout	ANT	1		H5N1	05/02/2022
69	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Oostakker	OVL	1		H5N1	11/02/2022
70	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Arendonk	ANT	1		H5N1	12/02/2022
71	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Blankenberge	WVL	1		H5N1	17/02/2022
72	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Kontich	ANT	1		H5N1	20/02/2022
73	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Blankenberge	WVL	1		H5N1	17/02/2022
74	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Oud-Turnhout	ANT	1		H5N1	27-02-2022

75	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	De Haan	WVL	1	H5N1	04-03-2022
76	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Nieuwpoort	WVL	1	H5N1	06-03-2022
77	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Gent	OVL	1	H5N1	07-03-2022
78	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Drongen	OVL	1	H5N1	07-03-2022
79	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Essen	ANT	1	H5Nx	19/03/2022
80	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Brasschaat	ANT	1	H5N1	04/04/2022
81	<i>Anser anser</i>	Visé	LIE	2	H5N1	05/04/2022
82	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Visé	LIE	1	H5N1	05/04/2022
83	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Oostende	WVL	1	H5N1	14-04-2022

Annex 3: location of infected outbreaks and restriction zones for outbreaks notified between 7 December 2021 and 29 March 2022 in Belgium (source: FASFC).



Annex 4: Analyses carried out by Sciensano from 07 December 2021 and 31 March 2022.

TEST DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
<i>Molecular test AFL</i>	62
<i>Molecular test H5</i>	13
<i>Molecular test NEW</i>	10
<i>Molecular test Nx</i>	13
<i>Pathotyping AFL</i>	6
<i>Isolation AFL</i>	6
<i>AFLIDENT</i>	6
<i>Elisa AFL</i>	-
<i>Inhibition of hemagglutination H5</i>	-
<i>Inhibition of hemagglutination H7</i>	-
<i>Inhibition of hemagglutination AFL for Highly pathogenic H5</i>	-
GRAND TOTAL	116

Annex 5: sensitive natural areas in Belgium

Source : https://drive.google.com/open?id=1O1jomjN7G-I9eMczv-Sx8ob_xcyaitt&usp=sharing



Sensitive natural areas marked in blue

Annex 6: Serological Surveillance Programme co-funded by the European Commission

Table 1: Results for the year 2021

Poultry category	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings sampled	Total number of samples taken
Chicken breeders	205	207	2046
Fattening Turkeys	49	51	510
Farmed game birds (gallinaceous)	47	24	236
Geese breeders	3	0	0
Fattening ducks	22	11	270
Laying hens	149	176	1 758
Free range laying hens	145	292	2 926
Backyard flocks	150	75	1 609
Total	770	836	9 355

In 2021, 9,185 birds were sampled. In 4 farms (3 traders and one duck farm), the animals tested positive for H5 avian influenza with the haemagglutinin inhibition test. Further samples were taken from these 4 farms and tested by RT-PCR. The results were negative for avian influenza for all 3 traders. For the duck farm, RT-PCR was positive for avian influenza. Sequencing identified a low pathogenic H6N1 strain.

Table 2: Results from 1 January 2022 to 26 April 2022

Poultry category	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings sampled	Total number of samples taken
Chicken breeders	205	61	610
Fattening Turkeys	36	14	140
Laying hens	143	35	350
Free range laying hens	156	74	750
Pheasant	9	1	10
Partridge	1	1	10
Fattening ducks	16	1	20
hobby poultry owned by traders	176	6	120
Total	742	193	2010

First results of the monitoring carried out in 2022. From 1 January 2022 to 26 April 2022, 2,010 birds were sampled. All animals tested negative except for one laying hen farm where samples tested positive by ELISA and HI H5 test. Additional samples were taken from this farm and analysed by PCR. All results were negative.