**January FBCC Disease Alert Summary**

**Ontario and Quebec**

No reportable or notifiable diseases have been reported. There are currently no Biosecurity Advisory Areas in place.

**California – virulent Newcastle Disease**

During January 2020, two more backyard flocks were diagnosed with **virulent Newcastle Disease,** for a total of 473 infected premises primarily in southern California.

Jan. 29, State Veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones issued a statement explaining that local feed and pet stores in the regional quarantine area would not have chicks for sale this spring. DNA tests from most recent 20 cases suggests they are all related, most likely from a single source with further spread due to bird movement, lax biosecurity, and comingling at feed and pet stores. Keeping poultry including chicks out of these facilities will help the region become vND free.

The suspension of routine on-farm poultry area visits by state/county/city/private inspectors as well as auditors and service providers in all affected counties has been extended until March 2020.

Effective December 20th, US banned organized animal fighting in all states and territories. Since 2007 it has been illegal to transport animals between states or territories for the purpose of fighting. It now emerges that breeders of fighting cocks in the U.S. are shipping significant numbers birds to Guam and Puerto Rico where cockfighting is prevalent.

**Mexico**

The National Health, Safety and Food Quality Service (SENASICA) has lifted the health alert and quarantine after more than 90 days without new cases of **Newcastle disease (velogenic strain)** in the affected areas. This sanitary event is considered closed.

No new outbreaks of [**highly pathogenic avian influenza**](https://www.wattagnet.com/topics/171-avian-influenza)**(HPAI)** have been reported since October.

**Chile**

Four cases of low pathogenic H7 avian influenza were diagnosed in broiler turkey flocks in 3 locations within state of Valparaiso between Aug 27 and October 12, 2019. No clinical signs were present. Index case was detected through routine company testing. This flock was depopulated and a 3km zone established. Follow up active surveillance detected 3 other flocks. These flocks were dealt with through controlled slaughter. The outbreaks are now all considered resolved.

**Europe – Avian Influenza**

Highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza viruses has caused more than **25 outbreaks in domestic poultry in six countries** during January 2020. Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Czech Republic and Ukraine. Poland and Germany also detected HPAI A(H5N8) in wild birds. **H5N8 HPAI was last reported in poultry in UK, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary in spring of 2017.** All cases are on or near East Atlantic migratory bird flyway. To date, all countries have responded according to OIE protocols.

* **Northern Ireland** Increased mortality in a broiler breeder flock in Co. Fermanagh on Jan.2 was a suspicious AI case. Laboratory testing identified the virus as the H6N1 strain avian influenza. This is non reportable and not a high pathogenic strain, as had been feared. Quarantine restrictions placed on the farm have now been lifted.
* **Hungary** Three broiler turkey flocks (107,000 birds) diagnosed with H5N8 HPAI. A farm of 115,500 young ducks was also infected.
* **Slovakia** H5N8 diagnosed in 3 backyard flocks and a wild waterfowl zoo collection
* **Poland** Since Dec 31, 2019 there have been 14 cases of H5N8 High Path AI in chickens, turkeys, geese and guinea fowl. All but one outbreak has been in commercial flocks. In addition, a single dead Northern Goshawk tested positive for HPAI.
* **Germany** First confirmed case this season in wild white-fronted goose.
* **Romania** Two commercial poultry flocks have been identified with high path H5N8 high path AI since Jan 14.
* **Czech Republic** First outbreak of H5N8 high path AI diagnosed in a small back yard mixed flock south east of Prague on January 18.
* **Ukraine** Jan 19, a flock of 98000 birds with 5% mortality with H5 in Vinnitsa oblast in the south-central region. The remaining ones were slated for culling. EU has prohibited poultry product imports from Ukraine.
* **UK** Jan 8- Culling, disposal, c&d and other control procedures completed. Revocation of I km Restricted Zone (low pathogenic Avian Influenza)

**Australia**

The National Farmers Federation estimates that more than 100,000 sheep and 25,000 cattle have perished or been euthanized due to the ongoing fires. Expert forecasts suggest that 1.7 million sheep and 450,000 cattle may be affected before fires are under control. No information on poultry barn losses is forthcoming at this point.

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