**February 2020 FBCC Disease Alert Summary**

**Quebec – Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT)**

5 cases of ILT in backyard flocks were reported by MAPAQ in Sept-Nov 2019 period

**California - virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)**

There have been 3 more cases of vND in February, again in backyard exhibition birds in San Bernardino county, for a total of 476 cases since May 2018. Quarantine area remains in place. The State Veterinarian has advised cancelling all poultry gatherings in the State until the quarantine is lifted.

**Europe - Avian Influenza**

* **Scotland – low path**

A non-notifiable strain of low-path avian influenza was discovered on a free-range laying flock. It appears to be the same H6N1 strain recently found on farms in Northern Ireland.

* **Poland – H5N8**

20 cases as of end of January, all of them in commercial poultry flocks. Eight new outbreaks in February (ducks and turkeys primarily). The same vehicle had visited 6 of the infected duck farms.

* **Germany -H5N8**

A mixed backyard flock in the western part of Germany, relatively close to the French and Belgium border was diagnosed with HPAI. This is the first case in western Europe. (In January the infection was identified in the eastern part of Germany in a wild bird.)

* **Holland**

Subsequent to the detection in Germany, all commercial producers have been ordered to confine all flocks indoors. Free range systems are widely used for ducks, geese and egg production in Holland.

* **Czech Republic - H5N8**

A second outbreak this year (east of Prague) resulted in the culling of 7,500 turkeys and 130,000 broilers on the same farm. The first outbreak was in a small flock.

* **Bulgaria – H5N8**

For the first time this season, three outbreaks have occurred in central Bulgaria. The first case was a commercial duck flock of 15,729 birds. The two most recent cases were in flocks of 55,437 birds and 11,600 ducks. Bulgaria has a unique location in Europe, with two migratory wild bird routes.

* **Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine**

No new outbreaks since our last report

**Middle East – Avian Influenza**

* **Israel - H5N8**

Detected in a live eagle

* **Saudi Arabia** **-H5N8**

408,000 birds culled with 5.6% mortality. Last case was in July 2018.

**Asia – Avian Influenza**

* **Vietnam** **– H5N6 and H5N1**

More than 100,000 birds have been culled since the beginning of the year in the wake of 34 HPAI outbreaks in 10 provinces and 10 cities.

There were 29 cases of **H5N6** reported in northern Provinces adjacent to China.

In addition, there have been 5 cases of **H5N1 (zoonotic)** in southern Vietnam.

HPAI has been endemic in Viet Nam for several years as in most South East Asian countries.

* **China** - **H5N1, H5N6 and H5N2**

An outbreak of **H5N1** AI in Hunan Province prompted the culling of 7850 broiler chickens.

**H5N6** has been confirmed in a flock of 2497 birds in Sichuan province This virus was last detected in Sichuan in March of 2017, according to the ministry.

An estimated 7,300 birds also were culled after testing positive for the **H5N2**. China has been dealing with avian flu for 10 years with vaccines and effective disease prevention measures in place.

* **Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)** – **H5N2 and H5N5**

There have been 30 **H5N2** cases reported in 2020. (260,000 birds in flocks of all types)

Ten outbreaks of **H5N5** have also occurred in 2020. **H5N5** has been endemic since Jan 2015.

* **India - H5N1**

In early January a flock of 21000 birds was diagnosed with H5N1 AI in central state of Chhattisgarh.

In early February, H5N1 was detected in a poultry breeding farm at the State Veterinary School in Odisha.India claimed disease freedom in Sept 2019.

It is important to note that 455 people have died from H5N1 since 2003.

**ADDENDUM:**

*(Excerpted from Poultry World News Feb 26, 2020)*

**COVID-19 coronavirus causes havoc in international trade**

Analysts believe China’s supply of poultry and egg products are likely to be affected over the next 6 months due to the ongoing battle against Coronavirus. Poultry prices have fallen sharply in recent weeks with restrictions placed on moving birds and factories closing for extended periods, effectively paralysing the supply chain. Transport disruption and labour shortages have also led to thousands of containers of frozen chicken, pork and beef piling up at some of China’s major ports.

The uncertainty of the supply chain has seen some feed mills and slaughterhouses shut for a number of weeks . COVID-19 is a substantial blow to the Chinese agricultural economy. Poultry production had rise by 12% last year to 22.39m tonnes, due to farmers plugging the gap in the market following the collapse in pig production to the African Swine Fever (ASF) epidemic.

Meanwhile, in India the sale of poultry products and eggs has declined in the light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Wholesalers have reported a fall of 50% for poultry products, while retailers have seen sales plunge by between 25-30%. Similarly, the sale and prices of eggs has also seen a significant decline, with wholesalers citing misinformation being circulated on social media platforms as one of the reasons. The outbreak has also led some countries to ban the import of poultry products. Afghanistan has banned products crossing its borders from both Iran and Pakistan, amid escalating fears of the spread of Coronavirus.