**September 2020 FBCC Disease Summary**

***High Path Avian Influenza wave in Russia and Kazakhstan moves towards Europe***

**Ontario –** [**OMAFRA releases avian influenza fall advisory**](https://www.fbcc.ca/file.aspx?id=22f8b9e9-b510-4f14-b71d-834a65134d00)

There is an increased risk of AI infection to poultry flocks during fall wild bird migrations. Avian influenza can be brought into a barn by breaches in biosecurity, and it is most often transmitted from one infected commercial flock to another by movement of infected birds or contaminated equipment or people.

**Ontario – Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT)**

On Sept 22 FBCC released a [**Biosecurity Advisory**](https://www.fbcc.ca/file.aspx?id=333e1a9e-ca5e-4926-8e73-f0ccd71e59b0) due to a new case of ILT was diagnosed in a registered small flock in southeastern Peterborough County.

The Animal Health Lab at Guelph has genotyped viral samples from ILT outbreaks in the last quarter. They found that 2 cases were a vaccine-like strain and 3 by a Niagara or Niagara–like wild strain.

**Alberta ILT**

As of August 1, Alberta has reported 11 cases of ILT in backyard flocks this year.

**British Columbia - Pigeon Paramyxovirus-1**

On August 7, 2020 the BC Ministry of Agriculture issued a [**Disease Notification**](https://www.fbcc.ca/file.aspx?id=c2436c92-4e06-4047-af5c-4cce73fa9af6) of Virulent Pigeon Paramyxovirus in a non-commercial pigeon loft in Abbotsford. The virus matches 99% to the virus strain isolated from infected Ontario racing pigeons in May-June, although no epidemiological link is apparent. On August 14, British Columbia’s Chief Veterinarian announced that the remaining pigeons on the site have been euthanized.  The premise remains under quarantine and will be undergoing cleaning and disinfection under the supervision of the CFIA.

**Russia - Newcastle Disease**

Five small flocks (356 birds with 90% mortality) in various parts of Vladimirskaya Oblast, southeast of Moscow. A case in same region was reported in July.

**Russia - HPAI H5N8 and H5N*x***

Since the first outbreak in Omsk in the Siberian federal district in mid August, the disease has spread westwards to neighboring Urals, and it has now been detected in the Volga district as well as the Caucasus region. The 5 Russian regions where most of the cases have been confirmed (Omsk, Kurgan, Chelyabinsk, Tuymen and Saratov) border Kazakhstan. Since the second week of August, Russia has confirmed to the OIE a total of 47 HPAI outbreaks in poultry. More than 1.743 million poultry have been directly affected in the outbreaks. The numerous outbreaks are distributed as 27 in Omsk, 8 in Kurgan, 1 in Chelyanbinsk, 9 in Tyumen, 1 in Saratov, and 1 in Karachay-Cherkess Republic.

All but 2 outbreaks occurred in small flocks. On Sept.1 an Omsk flock of 1,558,000 layers recorded 10,300 mortalities. This flock was responsible for 56% of all eggs in the Omsk region. OIE control measures are being undertaken together with regional culling. Vaccination of all poultry within 10 km of outbreaks and near processing plants is underway.

On Sept 28, a flock of 170,148 birds suffered 11.5% mortality. This H5 outbreak occurred in Zelenchuksky, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, in the North Caucasus region of Southern Russia near Georgian border.

It is reported that most outbreaks were confirmed at the farms located near water bodies. Veterinarians identified H5N8 virus in several wild ducks and other waterfowl near infected premises.

A news release from [The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/avian-influenza-eu-alert-new-outbreaks) has urged European Union (EU) countries to increase surveillance to protect against possible new outbreaks of avian influenza this year. This is a known migration route for wild water birds heading to Europe.

**Kazakhstan - High Path AI H5**

In mid September, HPAI H5 was detected in wild birds near Russian border - 2 aquatic birds/86 crows.

In addition, 7 flocks of 67,794 birds across North Kazakhstan were infected.

Control measures include the burning of mortalities, disinfection of premises, 8 km quarantines, movement controls and mass vaccination within a radius of 20 km. Sixteen villages are under quarantine. The government is considering a ban on autumn waterfowl hunting. The official report does not indicate that any birds from infected flocks were culled.

Unofficial reports in past week indicate that a village in south Kazakhstan near the Kyrgyzstan border has been quarantined due to bird flu. In addition, the virus apparently has also been identified in the regions of Akmola, Kostanay, Pavlodar, Karagandy, and Turkistan, the latter shares an international frontier with Uzbekistan. 1,104 chickens have died in 11 districts so far.

**Australia – High Path AI (HPAI) H7N7; Low Path (LPAI) H5N2, H7N6**

The six avian flu outbreaks reported last month directly involved almost 457,000 commercial poultry and 3 different virus strains. The five poultry farms have completed depopulation and disposal and there have been no subsequent cases. Restricted Areas and Movement Control Areas remain in place.

As of Sept 26, owners could let their birds free range again except for those located in the restricted zone where the lockdown was extended until October 19.

The emu flock infected with low path H7N6 only had clinical signs in the chicks. Only the chicks were depopulated. Surveillance and animal and environment testing continues.

**Vietnam - HPAI H5N6 and H5N1**

**High path H5N6** was detected in a flock of 6171 birds in Kien Thuy, Hai Phong (far north east). Vaccination was applied in surrounding areas.

Three small flocks (1422 birds with 26% mortality) due to H5N6. 2 flocks in Nghe An (north central) and 1 in Kon Tum in (south central)

Two **high path H5N1** cases in far southern regions during September; Tra Vinh in the south (300 birds with 30% mortality.) and Ca Mau (243 birds with 26% mortality)

**Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) HPAI H5N5**

In September there were 5 outbreaks: a flock of 4666 meat ducks and 2 flocks of 27477 chickens in Yunlin and 2 incidents at chicken abattoirs in Taipei City. This is 48 outbreaks in past year.

**Philippines- H5N6 AI**

Two more flocks with 20 birds in Rizal province on island of Luzon were diagnosed with H5N6 AI virus. Neighbouring owners voluntarily culled their flocks. These flocks are south of the infected commercial layer flock in Pampanga near Manila that was reported in July Disease Alert

**South Africa LPAI H7**

A low path H7 was detected in 2 ostrich flocks (311 birds) in Western Cape Region.

*Note: There have been 110 farms (5,918,885 birds) infected with HPAI H5N8 since June 2017.*