


Al threatening America again

By Alfonso Pastor, 19 Jan. 2016

On January 15, 2016 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) submitted a notification to OIE for a different strain of Avian Influenza (AI). The immediate notification was due to a highly pathogenic H7N8 outbreak in an Indiana turkey farm starting on January 12, 2016. The outbreak in the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (ISBAH) involved more than 200,000 turkeys. In DuPage County, 100,000 turkeys were affected. In DuPage County tested positive, involving a total of 240,900 turkeys. It is unclear the final threat from H7N8 will be to the US poultry industry because Indiana is the US fourth-largest turkey producer, the third-biggest egg producer, and first in duck production. Nonetheless, the reinforcement of both surveillance and response to H7N8 is needed to reduce the risk of further spread and the potential impact of this treat.

Genetic analysis of the recent Indiana viral isolates may elucidate its origin. It is not known whether the new virus incursions in North Carolina EAHP4 H5N8s arrived. Additionally it is unknown whether the US last year and their resulting progeny persisted within the North American continent. This study highlights the continuous and varied nature of the virus and the existence of a large reservoir of the virus, suggesting area for birds that are migrating further south from North America that are major reservoirs of Avian Influenza virus migrate through the importance of the poultry production and poultry and poultry products surveillance must be enhanced within the Caribbean region.



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Belize's infected area regains free status

By M. DePaaz & V. Gungora, 09 Sept, 2015

BAHA will today lift quarantine and other control measures implemented in the Cayo District following the detection of low pathogenic avian influenza (H5N2) in January 2015. The last case was detected on the 5 June 2015 and subsequent analysis and decontamination were completed on the 3 June 2015. In compliance with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) international standard, BAHA can declare the area free again free of avian influenza three months after decontamination. Quarantine control measures and the direct losses borne by the producers in the infected area have cost government and the poultry industry more BZ\$6 million.

The successful eradication of this zoonotic disease outbreak was possible because of government's immediate and strong intervention.

Digital marketing can

Dominican Republic's free from A

By Lissette Gomez, 13 Sept. 2015

Since 2005, the Dominican Republic has implemented an Air surveillance system based on positive surveillance with compulsory reporting for its municipalities of A1. Active surveillance is carried out by means of a risk factor survey in control and evaluation measures were initiated and developed after the first detection of LPA on a lightning clock on 20th December 2007, within the frame of Air surveillance of home for exposure. Active surveillance included weekly visits to the homes of the exposed population, and the identification of commercial food stores in the same vicinity as well as wild, unmanaged and regulatory birds. The surveillance programs are coordinated by an Air emergency response plan and sufficient diagnostic capacity for identifying the infectious virus. For control and transport of samples, in the past years, DGSP

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AI in the whole World since Nov. 2015

LOCATION	VIRUS TYPE	SPECIES	OUTBREAKS	SLAUGHTERED BIRDS
USA (Indiana) (see 04/00/039)	H7N8	Turkey, Chickens	8	124 222
France (see 04/00/045)	H2N1, H2N2, H5N9	Ducks, Geese, Guinea-fow, Guinea-fow, Capons, Geese	71	265 020
China (see 04/00/050)	H5N1, H5N2, H5N1, H7N3	Ducks, Chickens, Pheasants, Geese	5	42 509



Caribbean scales up preparedness plans for AI

Caribbean veterinary officials and members of the poultry sector are on high alert and have been working tirelessly to scale up the preparedness planning to prevent the introduction and spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

influence (PANA)
The Canadian Animal Health Institute, known as CAHI, and the Canadian Poultry Association (CPA) convened a three-day Animal Influences Regional Perspectives Meeting in Dartmouth to review and further develop a national strategic plan to safeguard food security and the livelihoods of communities across the region. The meeting was held at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in July. Over the three days, participants discussed the impact of HPAI H5N1, how it has been contained, its health and economic impact, and the role of the industry and governments in future

Direct measures

Training in GIS for Animal Health Surveillance, Belize, 13 Nov. 2012

Veterinary officials from 13 Caribbean countries participated in an intensive training workshop on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology for animal health surveillance using the Caribbean Veterinary Information System (C-VIS).

The workshop was held in San Ignacio, Belize between November 2005 and 2006 and was conducted by Dr. Caroline Amato Health Fellowship (CARDFH) in collaboration with the Centre for Co-operation International de Recherche en Agriculture pour le Développement (CIRAD), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) and the Belize Poultry Association (BPA).

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How Barbados is preparing for AI

By Kelly Brathwaite & Julie-Ann Hinkson, 11 Feb. 2016



Following the recent outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Asia, Europe and Canada, EIMech has increased its role in surveillance and has provided support to several countries. In addition, EIMech plans to increase its capacity with the public industry, part of their responsibility. They have also been strengthening the capacity of their Veterinary Services Laboratories to perform molecular diagnosis of targeted viral infections.

In October 2005, Dr. Julie-An Hénin and Dr. Ali Djalilovic of the VSL participated in a Swiss National Agency of Research (SNF) Training Agreement for the period 2005-2007, pre-arranged with the Swiss Federal Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (FHNW) in practical training where the participants were taught how to handle and manipulate potentially infectious samples under increased biosafety measures. They both successfully finished the course and will be attending a training and gained sufficient knowledge and skills to establish one of a molecular diagnostic unit at the VSL.

AI field simulation exercise in Dominica

By Reginald Thomas, July 2013

The Dominican People's Association is once again sponsoring activities in support of the development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Through the Fish Donator Program, the Association has donated 100 fish to the Fisheries Department. The fish are being distributed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to be used in the training of fish farmers. The fish are being distributed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to be used in the training of fish farmers. The fish are being distributed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to be used in the training of fish farmers.





AVIAN INFLUENZA

CARIBBEAN ANIMAL
HEALTH NETWORK



CaribVET Bulletin n°1

February 2016

Special edition

Edito

By Jennifer Pradel

The Caribbean region is on high alert for the entry of AI viruses since H5 highly pathogenic strains spread across the US last year. The unprecedented epizootics affected nearly 50 millions of birds over 21 states (wild birds, backyard poultry, commercial turkey, broilers and egg layer farms). Culprits? Wild birds, but also wind, rodents, people and vehicles moving between farms, highlighting the importance of strengthening biosecurity measures at the farm level; capabilities to rapidly detect HPAI; surveillance for early warning signals; preparedness and response capacities. The first CaribVET health bulletin dedicated to AI intend to share regularly knowledge on AI worldwide situation, in the Americas and in the Caribbean, but also to provide information on preparedness at the national levels and at the regional level. We hope to encourage information sharing among the veterinary services in the region.

We hope you will enjoy reading this first issue and that you will find it useful!

AI threatening America again

By Alfonso Pastor, 19 Jan. 2016

On January 15th 2016 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) submitted a notification to OIE for a different strain of Avian Influenza (AI). The immediate notification was due to a highly pathogenic H7N8 outbreak in an Indiana turkey farm starting on January 11th 2016. Thereafter, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) announced nine more commercial turkey farms in Dubois County tested positive, involving a total of 240,900 turkeys. It is unclear the final threat from H7N8 will be to the US poultry industry because Indiana is the US fourth-largest turkey producer, the third-biggest egg producer, and first in duck production. Nonetheless, the reinforcement of both surveillance and response plan after the AI events of last year may help to reduce the risk of further spread and the potential impact of this treat.

Genetic analysis of the recent Indiana viral isolates may elucidate

its origin. It is not known whether the new virus incursions in North America arrived via the same flyways pathway in which EA HPAI H5N8 arrived. Additionally it is unknown whether the Eurasian (EA) origin H5 viruses that affected the US last year and their resulting progeny persisted within the North American wild bird population will cause new infections in poultry but this highlights the continuous and varied treat of AI to the poultry industry.

Due to its location and the existence of natural and man-made wetlands, the Caribbean is an important wintering and staging area for birds that are migrating further south from North America. Several water bird species including those that are major reservoirs of Avian Influenza virus migrate through or winter in the Caribbean islands. Considering the importance of the poultry production and poultry and poultry product consumption in the Caribbean, biosecurity and surveillance must be enhanced within the Caribbean region.



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DEVELOPMENTS IN AI 2015/201616

By Desmond Ali, Feb. 2016

The Caribbean Poultry Association took the initiative to hold an all-day emergency meeting on 30 March 2015 specifically to deal with the epidemic in the USA and the possible impacts on the supply of hatching eggs and introduction of HPAI into the region.

Additionally, CPA has been working with CaribVET and FAO using funding available from the 10th EDF under the SPS initiative to develop biosecurity posters and checklists as well as to have training workshops in several Eastern Caribbean countries especially for small & backyard farmers. The aim of this initiative is to improve levels of biosecurity in the smaller farms. CPA members are to extend and add to these initiatives and efforts since our industry will be the first affected and will be the first responder to any interruption to the supply of hatching eggs and/or to any disease introduction.

In January 2016 at their 28th Board Meeting, CPA members agreed to work very closely with the Governments of Member States to: Improve biosecurity at ports of entry; work with regional CVO to agree on zoning/compartimentalization programmes that meet OIE Guidelines; Increase migratory bird surveillance; Develop national avian influenza management programmes incl. simulation; Improve laboratory capability; Develop national sensitization programmes; Develop programmes for possible depopulation and disposal; Develop insurance and indemnity programmes for farmers.



Belize's infected area regains free status

By M.Depaz & V.Gongora 09 sept. 2015

BAHA will today lift quarantine and other control measures implemented in the Cayo District following the detection of low pathogenic avian influenza H5N2 in January 2015. The last case was detected on the 5 June 2015 and depopulation and decontamination were completed by the 9 June 2015. In compliance with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) international standard, BAHA can declare the area once again free of avian influenza three months after decontamination. Quarantine control measures and the direct losses borne by the producers in the infected area have cost government and the poultry industry over BZ\$6 million.

The successful eradication of this avian influenza disease outbreak was possible because of government's immediate and strong intervention...

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Dominican Republic's free from AI

By Lissette Gomez, 13 sept. 2015

Since 2006, the Dominican Republic has implemented an AI surveillance program based on passive surveillance with compulsory reporting for the early detection of AI. Active surveillance to confirm the absence of virus circulation as well as control and eradication measures were initiated and strengthened after the first detection of LPAI on a fighting cock on 10th December 2007, within the frame of AI surveillance of birds for exports. Active surveillance includes sampling of fighting cocks, backyard birds and birds in markets and in commercial bird farms in the whole country as well as wild, ornamental and migratory birds. The surveillance programs are accompanied by an AI emergency response plan and sufficient diagnostic capacity for identifying the influenza virus. For collect and transport of samples, in the past years DIGEGA trained about 100 veterinarians and veterinary assistants.

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Caribbean scales up preparedness plans for AI

Workshop in Barbados, July 2016

Caribbean veterinary officials and members of the poultry sector are on high alert and have been working tirelessly to scale up the preparedness planning to prevent the introduction and spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

The Caribbean Animal Health Network, known as CaribVET, and the Caribbean Poultry Association (CPA) convened a three-day Avian Influenza Regional Preparedness Meeting in Barbados to review and further develop a regional strategic plan to safeguard food security and the livelihoods of communities across the region. The Meeting was held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel 6-9 July. Over the past six months, this new virus, known as



HPAI H5N2, has been wreaking havoc in North America. To date, more than 50 million birds have either died or have been destroyed and the disease has cost the industry and governments billions of dollars.

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Training in GIS for Animal Health Surveillance, Belize, 13 Nov. 2015


Veterinary officials from 13 Caribbean countries participated in an intensive training workshop on Geographic Information System (GIS) technology for animal health surveillance using the Caribbean Veterinary Information System (C-VIS).

The workshop was held in San Ignacio, Belize between November



9th and 12th and was conducted by the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) in collaboration with the Centre de Coopération International de Recherche en Agronomie pour le Développement (CIRAD), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Belize Poultry Association (BPA).

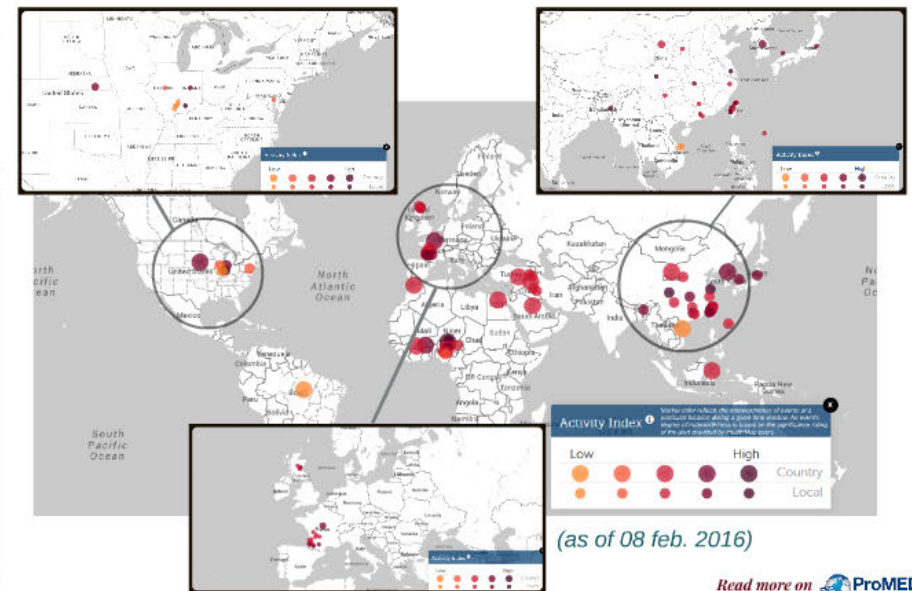
The primary focus of the training was to develop the GIS capacities and improve the skills of the participants including epidemiologists, veterinary officers, agricultural officers and extension officers.

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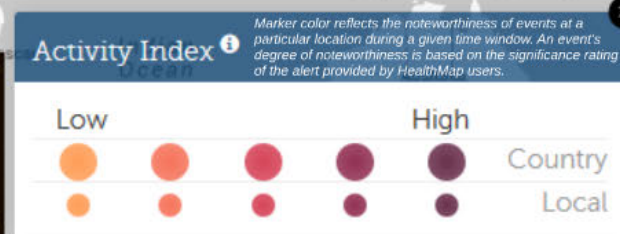
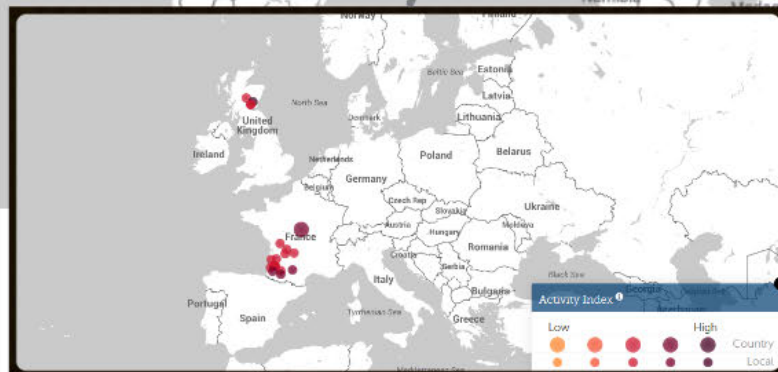
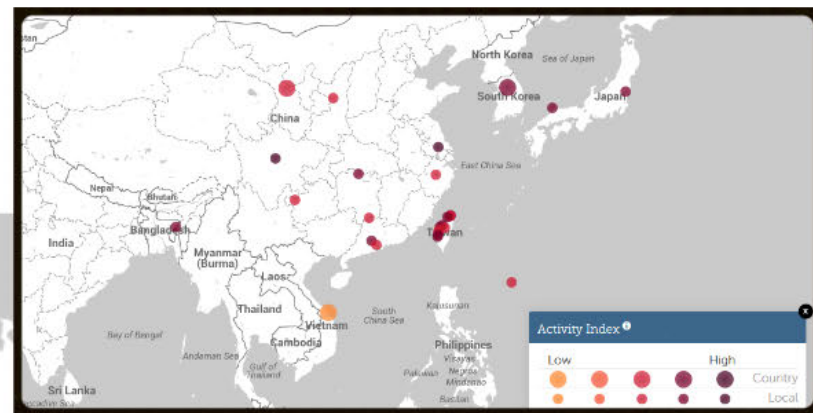
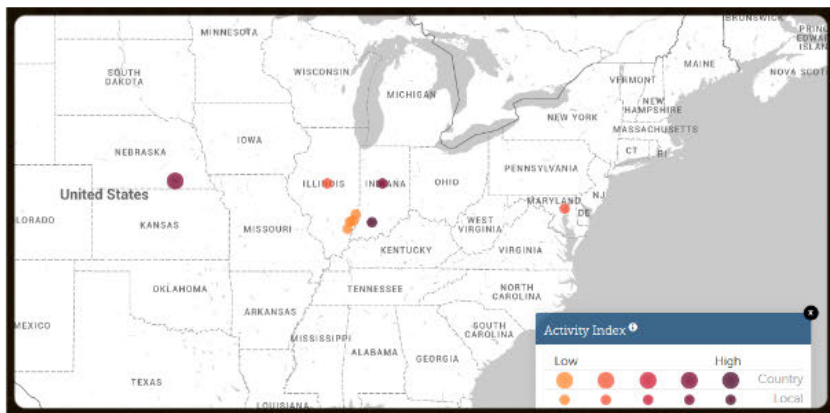
AI in the whole World since Nov. 2015

LOCATION	VIRUS TYPE	SPECIES	OUTBREAKS	SLAUGHTERED BIRDS
USA (Indiana) (as of 11/02/2016)	H7N8	Turkey, Chickens	8	414 223
France (as of 04/02/2016)	H5N1, H5N2, H5N9	Ducks, broilers, Guineafowls, Capons, Geese	71	266 683
China (as of 05/02/2016)	H5N1, H5N2, H5N6, H7N9	Ducks, Chicken, Peacocks, Gulls, Geese, Swans	5	42 509

From 1st nov.2015 to 12th feb.2016 - source: <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/>



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How Barbados is preparing for AI

By Kelly Brathwaite & Julie-Ann Hinkson, 11 Feb. 2016



Following the recent outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in North America and Canada, Barbados has increased wild bird surveillance and has put measures in place to improve biosecurity within the poultry industry. As part of their preparedness, they have also begun strengthening the capacity of their Veterinary Services Laboratory (VSL) to perform molecular diagnostics targeting avian influenza.

In October 2015, Dr. Julie-Ann Hinkson and Dr. Kelly Brathwaite of the VSL participated in a 6-week training programme at Cirad, Guadeloupe. Training was administered through Power Point presentations, reading material and hands-on practical learning, where the participants were taught how to handle and manipulate potentially infectious samples under increased biosecurity measures. They both successfully isolated the virus and on completion of their training, had gained sufficient knowledge and skills to enable setting up of a molecular diagnostics unit at the VSL.

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AI field simulation exercise in Dominica

By Reginald Thomas, July 2015

The Dominica Poultry Association in close partnership with the Livestock Development Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Office of the Disaster Management and the Food and Agriculture Organization held a two-day Avian Influenza Simulation Exercise to test the country's preparedness and reactive capacity to Avian Influenza given the elevated threat presented by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N2 virus currently circulating in wild birds in North America. The outbreaks in the USA had resulted in the destruction of over 49.5 million chicken and turkeys across 22 states at an expense of US\$3.3 billion. Dominica's two-day Avian Influenza simulation exercise began Wednesday July 29th 2015 with a full day of informative presentations and group work on Dominica's Avian Influenza preparedness and emergency manual. Day two, Thursday 30th July 2015 was the field simulation where five field groups ...

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