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Croatia

Poultry and Products

Croatia Confirms H5N1 Avian Influenza

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Report Highlights:

On October 26, the reference laboratory for avian influenza in Weybridge, Great Britain confirmed that samples taken from dead swans from the fish-breeding farm Grudnjak were infected with the highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza virus strain. These results were announced as Croatian Veterinary authorities detected additional cases of the avian influenza virus H5 in dead swans located just a few kilometers away from Grudnjak in a near by fish-breeding farm. Croatian authorities took appropriate quarantine measures immediately and destroyed all domestic poultry in a radius of 3 kilometers from the second finding. The dead swans from both locations were from the same flock with one bird having a leg marking from Hungary. The virus samples from the second finding have been sent to Weybridge, Great Britain to identify the virus strain.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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[HR]

On October 26, the reference laboratory for avian influenza in Weybridge, Great Britain confirmed that samples taken from dead swans from the fish-breeding farm Grudnjak were infected with the highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza virus strain.

These results were announced as Croatian Veterinary authorities detected additional cases of the avian influenza virus H5 in dead swans located just a few kilometers away from Grudnjak in a near by fish-breeding farm. The virus samples have been sent to the reference laboratory for avian influenza in Weybridge, Great Britain to identify the virus strain. Croatian authorities took appropriate quarantine measures immediately and destroyed all domestic poultry in a radius of 3 kilometers from the second finding. The dead swans from both locations were from the same flock and one bird having a leg marking from Hungary.

Authorities have destroyed about 17,000 poultry in the past few days in the affected areas, and the Ministry of Agriculture has promised to compensate small farmers for the damages.

On October 25, the European commission voted to suspend the imports of live birds, live poultry, meat from wild birds, and unprocessed feathers from Croatia. Poultry meat imports will still be permitted because Croatia has not had any detected avian influenza cases in poultry.

Background:

On October 19, the Croatian Veterinary authorities detected the avian influenza virus H5 in six dead swans found at the Grudnjak fish-breeding farm. The virus samples have been sent to the reference laboratory for avian influenza in Weybridge, Great Britain to identify the virus strain. Until the results are known, Croatia has banned all garden chicken sales and wild bird hunting; is requiring mandatory housing of all poultry; and is maintaining more stringent hygienic and bio-safety measures on all poultry production facilities including more stringent disinfection measures for transportation vehicles. This weekend Croatian veterinary authorities destroyed 13,000 poultry at the Grudnjak fish-breeding farm with total estimated damages at around \$162,946. Poultry export trade losses are estimated at \$750,000 per month. Poultry production is one of the few sectors where Croatia enjoys a trade surplus.

For additional information, see GAIN report HR5014.