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Netherlands

Poultry and Products

Dutch vaccination against AI started 2006

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Report Highlights: On March 16, the Dutch Government started a voluntary vaccination program against Avian Influenza (AI). The program may have a major impact on the Dutch poultry sector if third countries decide to impose a ban on Dutch poultry products.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1]
[NL]

Beginning March 16, a voluntary vaccination program against Avian Influenza (AI) will start in The Netherlands.

Outline of the vaccination program

- On February 22, the EC gave their permission for the Dutch vaccination program.
- The program is restricted to free-range layers and pet chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese. Participation in the program is voluntary. But non-vaccinated birds are not permitted outdoors. In The Netherlands, there are about 4.8 million commercially held free-range layer hens held by about 300 farmers.
- The Dutch Government has four million doses of Gallimune Flu H5N9 of the producer Merial in stock.
- The vaccination consists of three visits of a veterinarian and two injections. At the first visit, the veterinarian will take blood samples and will vaccinate and register the birds. The second vaccination will take place three to four weeks after the first vaccination. At a third and final visit, the veterinarian will take blood samples for analysis. Three weeks after the second injection, the birds are permitted outdoors. The vaccinated birds will be immune for a maximum of one year. All vaccinated pet birds will be ringed.
- The owner of the birds must pay visit of the veterinarian and the costs of vaccination. The cost of the vaccination is estimated at about EURO 0.15 per injection.
- The program will end on July 1 2006. An exception will be made for the vaccination of breeder hens, which can be vaccinated until July 1, 2007.

Impact on the Dutch poultry sector

The program puts the following restrictions on the poultry sector:

- Live vaccinated birds may not pass the Dutch border.
- Vaccinated layers must be slaughtered in The Netherlands. Export of the meat of vaccinated layers is permitted.

The program may have a major impact on the Dutch poultry sector if third countries decide to impose a ban on Dutch poultry products. Important destinations for Dutch poultry products are Russia, the Ukraine, Japan and Switzerland.

	Total Export	Export to non-EU destinations	Main non-EU destinations
<i>Poultry meat (million EURO);</i>	1,248	100	Russia and Ukraine
-broilers (MT)	590,000	150,000	
-layers (MT)	50,000	20,000	
-turkey (MT)	55,000	8,000	
<i>Eggs and egg products (million EURO)</i>	568	57	Japan and Switzerland
<i>Propagation material (million EURO)</i>	230	70	Russia, Ukraine and Japan

Source: Estimations of FAS The Hague based on industry sources.