



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

Annex IV: Programme for the surveillance of Avian Influenza in poultry and wild birds

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Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : NEDERLAND

Disease Avian Influenza

This program is multi annual :

Request of Union co-financing from beginning : To end of

Request year for multiannual programme :

1. Contact data

Name Phone

Email Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date

07/12/2022 15:51:13

Submission Number

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ANNEX 4 : Standard requirements for the submission of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

2. Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in poultry

2.1.1 *Designation of the authorities in charge of supervising coordinating and implementing the programme. Please describe in details who designs, who implements, and who monitors the programme in poultry. (Roles of central authority, local authorities, vets, farmers, labs, hunting associations, etc.)*

(max. 32000 chars) :

Design and legal implementation: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands; Animal Supply Chain and Animal Welfare Department.
Control: Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA)
Official Testing: approved laboratory Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR)
Serological monitoring: Royal GD Animal Health

2.1.2 *Description of System in place for the registration of holdings*

(max. 32000 chars) :

Identification and registration system is in place: Koppel Informatie System (KIP). Each farm with more than 250 chickens/ducks/geese etc. has its own registration number: Uniek BedrijfsNummer (UBN). In expectation of the derogated act on identification and registration up till now locations with less poultry are not registered, this also counts for backyard flocks.

2.1.3 *Design (risk based surveillance, or surveillance based on representative sampling taking into account criteria in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.*

Provide justification for the choice of the design. Please refer also explicitly to the objectives of the surveillance programme as mentioned in section 2 of Annex II Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

(max. 32000 chars) :

We have a serological monitoring programme aimed at detection of LPAI in poultry. The aim of detection of LPAI virus infections is to get more knowledge about the spread of these strains, as they can mutate into a highly pathogenic AI strain, which causes high mortality of poultry and may pose a public health risk. HPAI is categorised as category A disease in the AHR, 2016/429.
The programme to monitor the spread of LPAI is based on serological monitoring. Taking blood samples for serological tests enables us to detect antibodies against LPAI. An infection with LPAI usually does not result in clinical signs, so serological monitoring is the only way to see whether poultry

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has become subclinically infected. For that reason we sample poultry farms according to the schedule provided in previous years. The blood samples are tested for presence of antibodies against H5 or H7, the strains that may mutate into HPAI and can be harmful for poultry, and humans. In case of a positive serological response, the competent authority will visit the farm again to determine whether LPAI virus is still circulating. In that case, so when there is still an acute infection, the flock is destroyed to prevent further spread and to minimize the risk that LPAI virus strain mutates into a HPAI.

We sample wild birds found dead in the Netherlands for the presence of HPAI. Wild birds are well known to be a reservoir of AI virus strains and may pose a risk as they can come in contact poultry, other animals and humans which might cause infection with a devastating impact. It is important for the protection of public as well as for animal health to determine whether wild birds are infected with HPAI. In case species of certain risk bird species or many dead wild birds of other species, not specifically known as risk birds, are found in one particular place, a sample of these wild birds are tested for the presence of HPAI using the PCR test. The results helps the Dutch government to estimate the risk of HPAI outbreaks in poultry farms in the Netherlands. In case infected wild birds are found in the Netherlands, we take measures to further reduce the probability of infection of poultry, e.g. by implementing the measure of mandatory housing poultry inside during the high risk period. The goals are also described in (EC) 2020/689 (supplementing Directive (EC) 2016/429), Annex II, Part I, Section 2, section 4

Risk based surveillance programme:

* The objective of poultry surveillance programme is to detect antibodies against any avian influenza virus and demonstrate circulating avian influenza strains (low pathogenic, highly pathogenic H5 and H7). This is to detect outbreaks that have not been found by the early warning system or the obligation to notify. The programme delivered a source of data for epidemiological analysis, for example to determine risk patterns for the different poultry production systems. These results are also available and important for other member states.

* AI serological monitoring is mandatory in the Netherlands for all commercial poultry holdings. All commercial poultry holdings in the Netherlands, including all commercial broiler holdings, have to be sampled and serologically tested at least once a year.

* Holdings that have increased risk factors for introduction (free range poultry) or are more susceptible (turkey holdings) are sampled more frequently. Turkey holdings are sampled 3 times a year. Holdings with free-range laying hens or broilers are sampled 4 times a year.

* In case a poultry holder wants to transport poultry to another holding, the animals have to be sampled and the test results should be available prior to the transportation.

* A wild bird monitoring is in place as well. People have to report findings of more than 3 dead wild water birds in one place to the competent authority or findings with 20 or more other species of dead birds in one place. In that case, the competent authority will test for the presence of HPAI.

* Poultry farmers have to register mortality, feed and water intake and clinical health of their poultry. If mortality rates raise; above 0,5% per flock per day, for two following days; in case of meat turkeys 1% per flock per day, for two following days; In AI susceptible birds in case of 3% per week. Farmers have to report it to the competent authority.

A farmer should contact a veterinarian in the following cases: The animals show clinical symptoms of any disease; The food and water intake dropped with 5 % in two following days; A decline in egg production of 5% in two following days; The veterinarian can send in early warning samples.

In accordance with (EC) 2020/689 the costs of sampling and testing of broilers are not included in the costs of the programme in paragraph 7.2.

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2.1.3.1 *Short description of predominant poultry population and types of poultry production.*

Please provide also a table with the number of poultry holdings and birds existing for each poultry type, and map with the geographic distribution and density of poultry holdings. (If not available, please explain)

(max. 32000 chars) :

Map with density of poultry farms in the Netherlands situation at the end of 2021: See Annex 1

Total number of poultry holdings (also see Annex 2):

- (a) laying hens - 590
- (b) free range laying hens - 504
- (c) chicken breeders - 368
- (e) duck breeders - 9
- (g) fattening turkeys - 42
- (h) fattening ducks - 42
- (j) farmed game birds (gallinaceous) - 2
- (m) broilers - 802

2.1.3.2 *Criteria and risk factors for risk based surveillance (1) Please describe the risk factors as regard the criteria set in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.*

(max. 32000 chars) :

*** In general: A large percentage of poultry holdings in The Netherlands is located in two areas, the central part and the southern part. In these two areas the farm density is high. Other farms are located in areas with many migratory wild water birds. A substantial number of our poultry and poultry products is exported to other Member States. Reduction of the risk of introduction is therefore vital, as is timely detection of any LPAI-introduction, to prevent spread of LPAI and/or mutation to HPAI. To ensure timely detection and minimize spread, the early warning systems have been complemented by an intensive monitoring programme that includes all commercial poultry holdings in The Netherlands. This programme is designed in accordance with scientific literature and input from epidemiology and veterinary experts.

In the Netherlands every commercial poultry holding is monitored for AI. Since we do apply risk based surveillance we have a programme that is optimal for detection of LPAI. The programme for monitoring is designed with differences according to the poultry production category. No difference is been made according to the location or geography of the poultry holding.

*** Criteria and risk factors for virus introduction into poultry holdings due to direct or indirect exposure to wild birds in particular those of identified 'target species':

(a) Poultry holdings with free range production, or poultry holdings where poultry or other captive birds are kept in the open-air in any premises in which contact with wild birds cannot be sufficiently prevented.

=> Holdings that have increased risk factors for introduction due to exposure to wild birds (free range poultry) are sampled more frequently, 4 times a year.

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*** Criteria and risk factors for virus spread between poultry holdings as well as the consequences (impact) of the spread of avian influenza from poultry to poultry and between poultry holdings:

(b) The type of poultry production
=> Turkeys are more susceptible for AI-viruses. Therefore turkey holdings are sampled more frequently: around 3 times a year (every production round).
=> Every flock of ready to lay poultry and chicken/geese/duck breeders is sampled

(d) Trade patterns, including imports and related intensity of movements, both direct and indirect, of poultry and other factors including vehicles, equipment and persons.
=> In case a poultry holder wants to transport poultry to another holding the animals have to be sampled and tested. The test results should be available prior to the transportation.

Holdings with no specific risk as described above are sampled once a year.

(1) Including maps showing target sampling sites identified as being particularly at risk for the introduction of avian influenza virus, taking into account criteria set out in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

2.2 Target populations

Please explain:

- 1) The strategy of selection of the holdings to be sampled. (Random, risk based, geographic distribution)*
- 2) The number of holdings sampled, with regard to the minimum requirements set in Annex II section 9 to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.*
- 3) The number of samples taken in each holding with regard to the minimum requirements set in Annex II section 9 to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.*

(max. 32000 chars) :

1) and 2) AI monitoring is mandatory in the Netherlands for all commercial poultry holdings. To ensure early detection with avian influenza we included all our poultry holdings in the surveillance program and also we increased the surveillance frequency in free range holding to four times a year.

The sampling of the following poultry species and production categories is included in the surveillance programme (only if they are commercially kept in The Netherlands):

- (a) laying hens;
- (b) free range laying hens;
- (c) chicken breeders;
- (d) turkey breeders;
- (e) duck breeders;
- (f) geese breeders
- (g) fattening turkeys;
- (h) fattening ducks;
- (i) fattening geese;
- (j) farmed game birds (gallinaceous) focusing on adult birds such as breeding birds;
- (k) farmed game birds (waterfowl);
- (l) ratites.

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(m) broilers

Small flocks are not included in the active surveillance for avian influenza in poultry. These flocks are considered to play a minor role in virus circulation and spread.

The testing of broilers is not included in the costs of the programme according to 7.2 but these animals are also included in our programme.

3) Fattening ducks and fattening geese 40 samples on each holding

Other poultry production categories 30 samples on each holding. we take more than 10 samples per holding (95 % probability of identifying at least one bird that tests sero-positive for avian influenza, if the prevalence of sero-positive birds is ≥ 30 %) because most of the Dutch poultry farms contain more than one shed. We have seen that introduction with avian influenza can be limited to one shed, in a holding with multiple sheds. At least 10 samples per shed are necessary to meet the criteria of finding at least one bird that tests sero-positive for avian influenza, if the prevalence of sero-positive birds is ≥ 30 % with a 95 % probability. Because an average poultry farm has 3 sheds, we take 30 (3x10) samples per farm. If a farm has more than 3 sheds the number of samples taken must be equally divided over all sheds, with a minimum of 5 samples per shed.

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2.2.1 POULTRY HOLDINGS ^(a) (except ducks, geese and farmed game birds (waterfowl e.g. mallards) to be sampled

Serological investigation according to Annex I to Commission Decision 2010/367/EU

Targets for year **2023**

Category : chicken breeders

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI -H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
NL 11 Groningen	9	9	80	720	720	ELISA test	X
NL 12 Friesland	20	20	80	1 600	1 600	ELISA test	X
NL 13 Drenthe	12	12	80	960	960	ELISA test	X
NL 21 Overijssel	82	82	80	6 560	6 560	ELISA test	X
NL 22 Gelderland	82	82	80	6 560	6 560	ELISA test	X
NL 23 Flevoland	16	16	80	1 280	1 280	ELISA test	X
NL 31 Utrecht	11	11	80	880	880	ELISA test	X
NL 32 Noord-Holland	2	2	80	160	160	ELISA test	X

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NL 34 Zeeland	3	3	80	240	240	ELISA test	X
NL 41 Noord-Brabant	108	108	80	8 640	8 640	ELISA test	X
NL 42 Limburg	23	23	80	1 840	1 840	ELISA test	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	225	225	HI-test (H5)	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	0	225	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					29 890		
Add a new row							
<p>(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.</p> <p>(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested</p> <p>(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.</p>							

Category : free range laying hens

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI -H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
NL 11 Groningen	24	24	120	2 880	2 880	ELISA test	X
NL 12 Friesland	15	15	120	1 800	1 800	ELISA test	X
NL 13 Drenthe	38	38	120	4 560	4 560	ELISA test	X
NL 21 Overijssel	55	55	120	6 600	6 600	ELISA test	X
NL 22 Gelderland	208	208	120	24 960	24 960	ELISA test	X
NL 23 Flevoland	21	21	120	2 520	2 520	ELISA test	X

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NL 31 Utrecht	41	41	120	4 920	4 920	ELISA test	X
NL 32 Noord-Holland	1	1	120	120	120	ELISA test	X
NL 33 Zuid Holland	4	4	120	480	480	ELISA test	X
NL 34 Zeeland	12	12	120	1 440	1 440	ELISA test	X
NL 41 Noord-Brabant	44	44	120	5 280	5 280	ELISA test	X
NL 42 Limburg	41	41	120	4 920	4 920	ELISA test	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	1 200	1 200	HI-test (H5)	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	0	1 200	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					62 880		

Add a new row

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested

(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.

Category : laying hens

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI -H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
NL 11 Groningen	19	19	65	1 235	1 235	ELISA test	X
NL 12 Friesland	13	13	65	845	845	ELISA test	X
NL 13 Drenthe	24	24	65	1 560	1 560	ELISA test	X

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NL 21 Overijssel	58	58	65	3 770	3 770	ELISA test	X
NL 22 Gelderland	181	181	65	11 765	11 765	ELISA test	X
NL 23 Flevoland	12	12	65	780	780	ELISA test	X
NL 31 Utrecht	25	25	65	1 625	1 625	ELISA test	X
NL 32 Noord-Holland	5	5	65	325	325	ELISA test	X
NL 33 Zuid Holland	4	4	65	260	260	ELISA test	X
NL 34 Zeeland	12	12	65	780	780	ELISA test	X
NL 41 Noord-Brabant	109	109	65	7 085	7 085	ELISA test	X
NL 42 Limburg	128	128	65	8 320	8 320	ELISA test	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	175	175	HI-test (H5)	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	0	175	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					38 700		

Add a new row

(a) *Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.*

(b) *Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested*

(c) *Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.*

Category : fattening turkeys

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI -H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis
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NL 11 Groningen	2	2	90	180	180	ELISA test	X
NL 13 Drenthe	2	2	90	180	180	ELISA test	X
NL 21 Overijssel	1	1	90	90	90	ELISA test	X
NL 22 Gelderland	3	3	90	270	270	ELISA test	X
NL 23 Flevoland	2	2	90	180	180	ELISA test	X
NL 41 Noord-Brabant	6	6	90	540	540	ELISA test	X
NL 42 Limburg	26	26	90	2 340	2 340	ELISA test	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	40	40	HI-test (H5)	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	0	40	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					3 860		

Add a new row

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested

(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.

Add a category

Totals	Total number of tests	Total number of samples
Total poultry 2023	135 330	133 690

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2.2.2 *DUCKS ,GEESE AND FARMED GAME BIRDS (WATERFOWL e.g. MALLARD) HOLDINGS (a) to be sampled.*

Serological investigation according to Annex I to Commission Decision 2010/367/EU

Targets for year **2023**

Category : fattening ducks

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI –H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of duck and geese holdings	Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
NL 11 Groningen	1	1	40	40	40	ELISA test	X
NL 13 Drenthe	3	3	40	120	120	ELISA test	X
NL 21 Overijssel	5	5	40	200	200	ELISA test	X
NL 22 Gelderland	17	17	40	680	680	ELISA test	X
NL 23 Flevoland	12	12	40	480	480	ELISA test	X
NL 31 Utrecht	1	1	40	40	40	ELISA test	X
NL 41 Noord-Brabant	1	1	40	40	40	ELISA test	X
NL 42 Limburg	2	2	40	80	80	ELISA test	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	25	25	HI-test (H5)	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	0	25	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					1 730		

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Add a new row

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (2) code can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested

Category : duck breeders

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI –H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of duck and geese holdings	Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
NL 22 Gelderland	9	9	80	720	720	ELISA test	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	15	15	HI-test (H5)	X
The Netherlands	0	0	0	0	15	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					750		

Add a new row

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (2) code can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested

Category : farmed game (waterfowl e.g. mallards)

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI –H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of duck and geese holdings	Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
NL 41 Noord-Brabant	1	1	30	30	30	ELISA test	X
NL 42 Limburg	1	1	30	30	30	ELISA test	X

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The Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	HI-test (H5)	X	
The Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	HI-test (H7)	X	
Total					60			
Add a new row								

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
 (b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (2) code can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested

Add a category

Totals	Total number of tests	Total number of samples
Total ducks and geese and farmed game birds 2023	2 540	2 500

TOTALS for Poultry (2.2.1) + Ducks and Geese (2.2.2) and farmed game birds for year :

2023

Poultry + Ducks/Geese /farmed game birds	Total number of tests
Grand Total	137 870
Grand Total ELISA	134 510
Grand Total agar	0
Grand Total HI tests (H5)	1 680
Grand Total HI tests (H7)	1 680

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Grand Total Virus Isolation test	0
Grand Total PCR test	0
Grand Total Samplings	136 190

2.3 Sampling procedures, sampling periods and frequency of testing taking into account criteria set out in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

For each poultry category please detail the place of sampling (holding or slaughterhouse), the period and frequency of the testing, and who is in charge of the sampling.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The time period for sampling in the poultry holding such as minimum age is described in national legislation
In order to optimise efficiency and also to avoid the unnecessary entry of persons onto poultry holdings, sampling shall, whenever possible, be combined with sampling for other purposes, such as within the framework of Salmonella, Mycoplasma and Newcastle disease vaccination control. However, such combining must not compromise the requirements for risk based surveillance.

According to national legislation sampling shall be carried out from 1 January to 31 December.

Sampling is carried out on the holding by a veterinarian. Testing of poultry samples is currently carried out at the Dutch Animal Health Service (GD), authorised by the competent authorities and under control of the NRL: Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR, former CVI). The frequency of sampling is described in paragraph 2.1.3

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2.4. Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used.

Please describe the tests to be used and their purpose (screening test or confirmatory test or follow-up investigations) for each category of poultry.

Please explain the number of tests calculation for each poultry category, and if it is in line with Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

Description of the used serological tests : (max 32000 chars)

Laboratory tests are carried out in accordance with the Diagnostic Manual which lays down the procedures for the confirmation and differential diagnosis of avian influenza. Only the eligible serological tests are mentioned in this programme.

The following laboratory test is currently used in The Netherlands:

Dutch Animal Health Service (GD): serological pre-screening: Influenza A ELISA

All positive serological findings are followed up at the poultry holding by epidemiological investigations and further testing by virological methods (PCR) in order to determine, if active infection of avian influenza virus is present on the poultry holding. The number of necessary virological H5 en H7 tests has been estimated as 1-2% of the number of ELISA tests. This is an estimation because it is unknown how many serological tests will be tested positive. All avian influenza virus isolates are submitted to the EURL in accordance with Union legislation according to the functions and the duties of the national reference laboratories as laid down in Annex VIII to Directive 2005/94/EC. The correct reference is (EC) 2016 / 429, (EC) 2020/689 and (EC) 2020/690. The diagnostic Manual may not be in force, but according to our information there has not been a new Manual that goes together with the new AHR. In (EC) 2020/689 Annex II, Section 9, the tests are briefly described. So the tests we carry out are still the ones described in the Manual. The EC is working on a new delegated act about Manuals for several diseases, but as far as we know, they have not been shared with the Member states. As soon as a new manual is in place, we will adjust our test methods if applicable.

Specific protocols provided by the EURL for the submission of samples and diagnostic material are used. The competent authorities shall ensure that there is a good exchange of information between the EURL and the NRL.

In case of kept poultry, either chickens or ducks or geese, we carry out serological monitoring to detect AI strains of H5 and H7 not detected because of clinical signs. Poultry infected with LPAI usually do not show any clinical signs so serology is the only way to detect subclinical infection. Ducks and geese infected with either LPAI or HPAI strains may also remain free from clinical signs. Also in case of HPAI, serological monitoring is usually the only way to

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detect AI strains in ducks and geese. For our monitoring programme applied to ducks and geese farms we follow the same procedure carried out on chicken farms carrying out a serological surveillance programme.

When a suspicion of H5 or H7 HPAI is notified based on a clinical suspicion, we take samples to detect the virus using a PCR (swabs from cloaca and trachea). We do not carry out serological sampling in case of a HPAI outbreak. Serological sampling in poultry after a HPAI infection is not efficient, as the interval between infection and death is too short to develop antibodies.

3. Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in wild birds

3.1.1 Designation of the authorities in charge of supervising, coordinating, and implementing the programme and relevant collaborating partners (e.g. epidemiologists, ornithologists, nature bird observation and hunter organisations).

Please describe in detail who designs, who implements, and who monitors the programme in wild birds.

Please detail the system in place to detect the dead wild birds; please explain who delivers the wild birds to the laboratory.

(max. 32000 chars):

Supervising: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Animal Supply Chain and Animal Welfare Department.

Coordination and implementation: Dutch Wildlife and Health Center, in close cooperation with SOVON (wild bird organisation) and with experts in the field.

In case of findings of multiple dead wild water birds (more than 3 dead geese/swans/ducks or more than 20 of other species) the NVWA should be notified. (Procedure finding of dead wild bird see Annex 3)

Delivery of dead wild birds to the laboratory: Specialised transport service. In case of a suspicion: Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority.

Testing: Wageningen Bioveterinary Research

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3.1.2 Description and delimitation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be applied

(max. 32000 chars) :

The monitoring of wild birds focuses on areas with a high number of wild (water)birds, being areas with (a lot of) water. Since the Netherlands is a country with a lot of water, the whole territory of the Netherlands is covered in the monitoring programme.

3.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

Please provide main species, number of birds, migratory routes, geographic distribution or risk areas.

(max. 32000 chars) :

For waterfowl, see annex 4 for Geese and annex 5 for other wild birds.

3.2 Design, criteria, risk factors and target population(3)

(max. 32000 chars) :

A 'passive' surveillance system is in place. Laboratory investigation of wild birds found dead is performed and is specifically directed towards water bird species.

-Wild birds, in particular migratory water birds, that have been shown to be at a higher risk of becoming infected with, and transmitting the AI virus, the 'target species' (TS) are specifically targeted.

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-Areas close to the sea, lakes and other waterways where birds were found dead are specifically targeted
 -By close cooperation with epidemiologists and ornithologists optimising sampling adapted to the national and actual situation is ensured.
 For the most recent information about the target species in the netherlands, see <https://www.sovon.nl/nl/content/vogelsoorten-met-een-potentieel-risico-op-de-verspreiding-van-aviaire-influenza-nederland>.

(3) Areas at risk (wetlands in particular where links with high density poultry populations), previous positive findings as referred to in Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 should be taken into account and if possible complemented by a map.

3.2.1 WILD BIRDS focussed on target species

Investigations according to the surveillance programme set out in conformity with Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Targets for year

2023

NUTS (2) code/region (a)	Total number of wild birds to be sampled	Estimated total number of wild birds to be samples for passive surveillance	Type of test	Number of tests	
The Netherlands	625	625	PCR test	1 250	X
The Netherlands	15	0	Virus isolation test	15	X
Total	640	625		1 265	
Add a new row					
<p>(a) Refers to the place of collection of birds/samples. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</p>					

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	Total number of tests
Total number of tests	1 265
Total Virus isolation tests	15
Total PCR tests	1 250
Total Other tests	0
Total number of wild birds to be sampled for passive surveillance	625

3.3 Sampling procedures and sampling periods

Please also explain which samples are taken from wild birds

max 32000 chars :

Cloacal and tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs are sampled for molecular detection (PCR) and/or virus isolation. Sampling shall not extend beyond 31 December of the year of implementation of the surveillance programme.

3.4 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used .

Please explain also which laboratory do the tests for the wild birds, and which, and how many tests are planned for each wild bird

max 32000 chars :

Laboratory tests are carried out in accordance with the Diagnostic Manual still in place. The testing of samples is carried out at the NRL.

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Initial screening using M gene PCR shall be carried out, followed by rapid testing of positive findings for H5/H7. In case of a positive finding for H5/H7, an analysis of the cleavage site shall be undertaken as soon as possible to determine whether or not it has a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or a low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) motif.

Passive surveillance (sick or dead wild birds) (Wageningen Bioveterinary Research)

- PCR test cloaca
- PCR test trachea
- RT-PCR H5/H7 on PCR positive samples
- Virus isolation test on PCR positive samples.

4. *Short description of the epidemiological situation of the disease in poultry during the last five years*

max 32000 chars :

The last HPAI detection found on a commercial poultry farm was on the 2nd of May 2022. During the winter of 2021/2022 and early spring 2022 the Netherlands also faced multiple HPAI-outbreaks. The Netherlands also has had incidental, isolated infections of LPAI in the past years, the last detection on a commercial poultry holding until 2021 dates from the 10th of December 2020.

In 2020 in total 10 commercial farms, 8 non-commercial farms were infected with HPAI and 1 commercial farm with LPAI;

In 2021 in total 20 outbreaks by domestic birds of which 7 at kept birds and 13 at commercial farms. All outbreaks in 2021 were HPAI.

Overview outbreaks last five years

2021: HPAI 20 & LPAI 0; 2020: HPAI 18 & LPAI 1; 2019: HPAI 0 & LPAI 0; 2018: HPAI 2 & LPAI 1; 2017: HPAI 4 & LPAI 1.

5. *Short description of the epidemiological situation of the disease in wild birds during the last five years*

(max. 32000 chars) :

During the winter of 2021/2022 multiple findings of HPAI in wild birds have been reported in the Netherlands. The last years these wild birds apparently seem to be the cause of introduction of HPAI in commercial farms and at hobby locations.

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Number of cases WILD BIRDS

2021: HPAI 185 & LPAI 0

2020: HPAI 78 & LPAI 10

2019: HPAI 2 & LPAI 0

2018: HPAI 7 & LPAI 0

2017: HPAI 20 & LPAI 0

2016: HPAI 41 & LPAI 0

6. *Measures in place as regards the notification of the disease*

Please explain also briefly the measures implemented in case of suspicion or confirmation of the disease

(max. 32000 chars):

Notification of signs of HPAI in poultry is mandatory for poultry owners, veterinarians and laboratories. This is laid down in national legislation. Because LPAI can be asymptomatic or might generate only mild symptoms, the notification obligation has been complemented with an early warning system and an intensive, risk-based surveillance programme (as described under 2.1.3).

In case of suspicion of AI the NVWA visits the holding and takes official samples which are sent to the NRL. Measures in accordance with (EU) 2020/687 are taken.

In case of a confirmation the measures according to (EU) 2020/687 are taken and depending on the situation and risk assessment extra national measures are taken.

7. *Costs*

7.1 *Detailed analysis of the costs*

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7.1.1 Poultry including ducks, geese and farmed game birds

Please also check the consistency between the numbers mentioned in tables 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 7.2.1, and the information provided in box 2.3 and 2.4. Please comment also the cost-efficiency aspects of the programme

(max. 32000 chars):

'Notification of signs of HPAI in poultry is mandatory for poultry owners, veterinarians and laboratories. This is laid down in national legislation. Because LPAI can be asymptomatic or might generate only mild symptoms, the notification obligation has been complemented with an early warning system and an intensive, risk-based surveillance programme (as described under 2.1.3).

In case of suspicion of AI the NVWA visits the holding and takes official samples which are sent to the NRL.

In case of a confirmation the measures according to (EU) 2020/687 are taken and depending on the situation and risk assessment extra national measures are taken.

In case of a confirmation in a wild bird, national measures can be taken. Often an obligation to confine poultry is put in place. An expert group is consulted frequently to evaluate the epidemiological situation.

7.1.2 Wild birds

Please also check the consistency between the numbers mentioned in tables 3.2.1, 7.2.2 and the information provided in box 3.3 and 3.4.

(max. 32000 chars):

-Each delivered wild bird is sampled twice by Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR) for PCR-tests: respiratory and digestive system.

-For the virus isolation tests the same samples are used by WBVR as for the PCR tests. Therefore we do not request an extra contribution for samples.

7.2 Summary of the annual costs :

7.2.1 Poultry surveillance including ducks, geese and farmed game birds : Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme - poultry

Costs of the planned activities for year :

2023

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C. Financial information

1. Identification of the implementing entities - financial circuits/flows

Identify and describe the entities which will be in charge of implementing the eligible measures planned in this programme which costs will constitute the reimbursement/payment claim to the EU. Describe the financial flows/circuits followed.

Each of the following paragraphs (from a to e) shall be filled out if EU cofinancing is requested for the related measure.

a) Implementing entities - **sampling**: who perform the official sampling? Who pays?
(e.g. authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the regional veterinary services (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the private laboratory testing the samples which includes the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget))

(max. 32000 chars):

The sampling for the ELISA tests of commercial poultry is done by private vets. The sampling is not funded by public funds and therefore no contribution for the sampling will be requested.

In case of a positive test result the official veterinarian of the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority takes official samples.

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The sampling of the wild birds is done by specialised bird experts of the Dutch Wildlife and Health Center, which is contracted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. Delivery costs and sampling costs of wild birds are at the moment entirely paid by state budget.

The sampling for the ELISA tests of commercial poultry is done by private vets. The sampling is not funded by public funds and therefore no contribution for the sampling will be requested.

In case of a positive test result the official veterinarian of the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority takes official samples.

b) Implementing entities - **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
(e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

(max. 32000 chars):

'The National Reference Laboratorium (Wageningen Bioveterinary Research, WBVR) performs the HI-test for H5/H7, the virusisolation tests and the PCR-tests.

The Animal Health Services in the Netherlands (Gezondheidsdienst voor Dieren, GD) is responsible for the ELISA tests of the poultry samples. The testing for avian influenza in poultry at WBVR and GD is paid using the 'diergezondheidsfonds' (animal health fund, AHF) . The money in the Animal Health Fund partly consists out of general state budget and is partly levied directly from the poultry sector.

Costs related to the wild bird testing are entirely paid by state budget.

c) Implementing entities - **compensation**: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
(e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

(max. 32000 chars):

'The payments that are made from the Animal Health Fund as well as payments that are made from the state budget are implemented by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland). The Netherlands Enterprise Agency is an agency of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and also works for the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

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d) Implementing entities - **vaccination** : who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?

(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

(max. 32000 chars):

Not applicable for avian influenza at the moment

e) Implementing entities - **other essential measures**: who implements this measure? Who provides the equipment/service? Who pays?

(max. 32000 chars):

The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority implements measures in case of an infected premise. The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The implementation of the measures is paid by state budget.

2. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.

yes

no

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3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

In the "*Guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes*", it is indicated that in exceptional and duly justified cases, additional necessary measures can be proposed by the Member States in their application.

If you introduced these type of measures in this programme, for each of them, please provide detailed technical justification and also justification of their cost:

Not applicable.

ANNEX 4 : Standard requirements for the submission of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

Attachments

IMPORTANT :

- 1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
- 2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here : jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.
- 3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2 500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
- 4) IT CAN TAKE **SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD** ALL THE ATTACHED FILES. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!
- 5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

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