



Recovery of free status :

On 2 September 2021, France recovered its free status from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in accordance with Chapter 10.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The episode has been closed with the OIE

Thus, all departments affected by this epizootic are now free of the disease.

I – Current sanitary situation

Between November 17th of 2020 and the end of April 2021, France experienced an HPAI episode due to seasonal migration of wild birds coming from Asia and crossing over Europe, by contamination of commercial breeding during nesting. 492 outbreaks were declared in farmings in 15 of the 101 French departments. Furthermore, 22 cases were declared in wild fauna and captive wildlife.

Since late March 2021 for wild fauna and late April 2021 for commercial breedings, France hasn't experienced any other case in wild fauna or outbreak which confirms that the sanitary situation is stabilized, with the exception of a new case in captive fauna declared on July 7, 2021 in the Loiret department. This is a backyard, which in accordance with chapter 10.4 of the terrestrial animal health code revised and adopted on May 29, 2021 notified as a case in captive fauna without consequence on the free status of the department of Loiret.

From March, 23rd of 2021 (date of the last case in wild fauna in France), the level of risk linked to Asian Influenza has been reduced subsequently, first from « elevated » to « moderate » risk by ministerial ruling of April, 23rd of 2021, then from « moderate » to « negligible » risk by ministerial ruling of May, 27th of 2021.

II – Successive deployed eradication strategies since November 2020 (commercial breedings)

PHASE 1 : November 16th – December 24th 2020 : ZONING AND EARLY DETECTION

- 1st outbreak notified on November 16th in a pet shop in Haute-Corse ; switchover in « high » risk ;
- Application of zoning (protection zone (PZ) of 3km – surveillance zone (SZ) of 10 km) in accordance with the European Regulation and OIE standards, combining slaughter of infected and suspected birds, prohibiting any birds movement and reinforced surveillance over the whole territory in order to insure early detection of new outbreaks and implementing biosecurity measures related to « elevated » risk.

PHASE 2 : from December 24th of 2020 : PREVENTIVE SLAUGHTER in LANDES department

Due to the increasing amount of cases in the Landes department, a high density breeding area raising ducks for « foie gras », it has been decided to set up an offensive strategy to limit the spread by targeted preventive slaughters within a radius of 3km around the outbreaks.

PHASE 3 : January to mid-March 2021 : MASSIVE DEPOPULATION in GRAND SUD-OUEST region.

The objective was to depopulate Grand Sud-Ouest region to stop the spread of the virus in a densely populated zone. Based on an advice of the ANSES (January 7th) and on the experience gained during 2015-2017 during which that strategy was efficient, it has been decided :

- To extend the preventive slaughter radius to 5 km around the outbreaks (in the end, more than 3 millions of birds will be slaughtered) ;
- And to create a « buffer zone », known as « Grand Sud-Ouest », including Landes department (40) and the 3 neighbouring departments (Gers (32), Pyrénées-Atlantiques (64) et Hautes-Pyrénées (65)) within which the repopulation has been forbidden, and where the surveillance zone has been extended to 20 km around the outbreaks ; Lot-et-Garonne (47) department has been subsequently added to the buffer zone.

PHASE 4 : March – June of 2021 : PROGRESSIVE LIFTING OF THE RESTRICTIONS AND RESTOCKING AFTER FOLLOWING

Given the stabilization of the sanitary situation in the buffer zone, on March 18th of 2021, a progressive lifting of the restricted zones strategy (PZ/SZ) has been implemented after a period of following in every outbreak-farms and preventively depopulated farms. When the PZ and SZ are lifted, a reinforced surveillance zone is nevertheless maintained in order to ensure the sanitary conditions for future restocking of poultry (only *Gallus gallus* at this stage) in that zone.

Restocking of palmipeds farms has been delayed due to their higher susceptibility to H5N8 virus. It has been allowed, after an additional 4-week sanitation period around former outbreaks, on April 24th.

The cleaning and disinfection of the last outbreak was completed on 4 August 2021.

III – Recovery of free status of departments related to HPAI

The table below shows the historical recovery dates by department, based on the cleaning and disinfection dates of the last outbreak in each department, in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Chapter 10.4).

Department	Date of effective recovery
Yvelines (78)	February, 19th of 2021
Haute-Corse (2B)	February, 20th of 2021
Corse du Sud (2A)	February, 24th of 2021
Deux-Sèvres (79)	April, 20th of 2021
Haute-Garonne (31)	May, 20th of 2021
Vendée (85)	May, 25th of 2021
Hautes Pyrénées (65)	May, 29th of 2021

Ardennes (08)	May, 29th of 2021
Lot et Garonne (47)	May, 29th of 2021
Gers (32)	June, 4th of 2021
Landes (40)	May, 29th of 2021
Haute Savoie (74)	May, 29th of 2021
Bas Rhin (67)	May, 29th of 2021
Haut Rhin (68)	June, 24th of 2021
Pyrénées Atlantiques (64)	September, 2 of 2021