



Ref: VITT 1200/HPAI – Canada
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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H7N3 in Canada

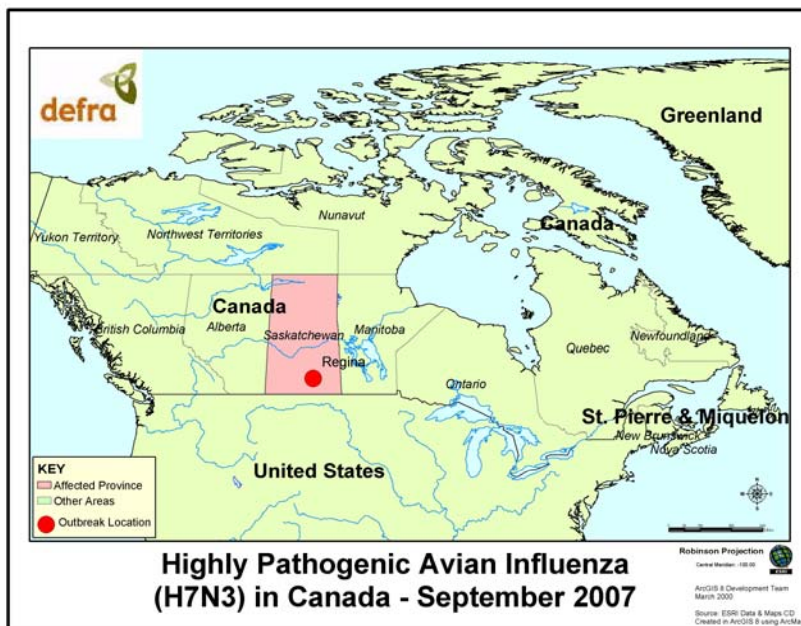
Note: Defra's Food and Farming Group, International Trade Core Function (FFG-ITCF) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is among those diseases of major concern.

1 Disease Report

An outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H7N3) has been confirmed in commercial poultry on a breeding establishment at Regina Beach, Regina, Saskatchewan (see map) on 27 September (OIE, 2007). The last case of HPAI in Canada was reported in British Columbia in 2004.

2 Situation assessment and commentary

The outbreak was detected in commercial broiler breeder flocks following the introduction of roosters from one barn into two other barns with breeder flocks of differing ages (52 and 29 weeks respectively). The 29 week flock showed low performance and laboratory tests indicated H7N3 virus. No birds in the other barns on the establishment have tested positive so far. Canada has implemented control measures including stamping out, movement controls, surveillance and quarantine. Vaccination against HPAI is prohibited.



Live birds, poultry meat/products and hatching eggs may be imported into the UK from Canada but import levels

are low. According to the European Commission TRACES electronic database there have been no imports of live birds or hatching eggs from Canada in the past three months. There was only a single import of turkey meat (from Manitoba) during this period.

3 Conclusions

Based on the disease report and situation assessment, the likelihood of the introduction of HPAI H7N3 by legal trade from Canada to the UK before and after this outbreak is considered to be negligible.

Currently, Defra FFG-ITCF does not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak but will continue to monitor developments and re-assess the situation as new information become available.

4 References

OIE. 2007. Highly pathogenic avian influenza, Canada. CAN 28-09-07 OIE Alert Message. Received by e-mail Friday 28/09/2007 at 13:39