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***Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza:  
Update on current situation in Ireland, the U.K. and the E.U.***

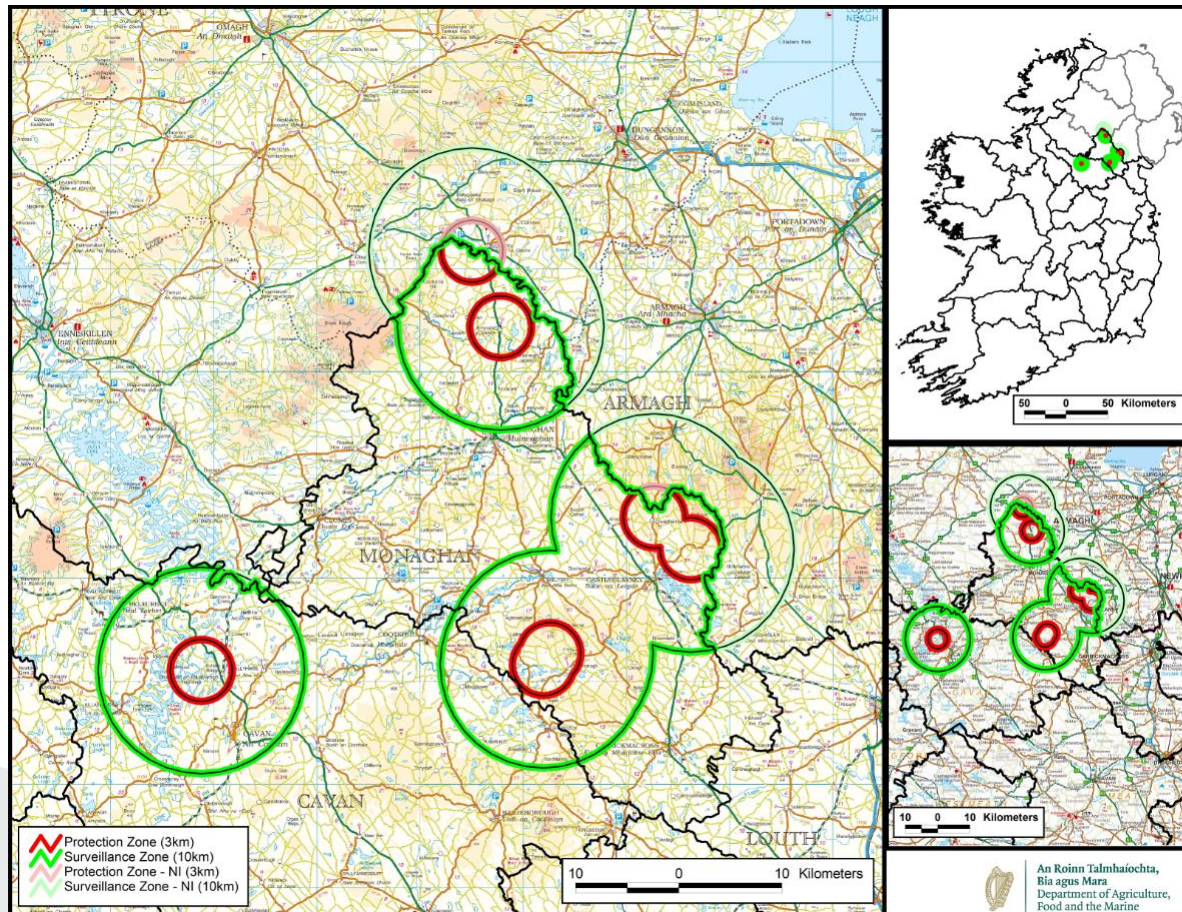
***Avril Hobson SSVI DAFM  
Teagasc AHI & IFA Pullet Rearing & Layer Event  
17th October 2022***

# Outline



- **Current HPAI situation in:**
  - Ireland: poultry and wild birds
  - Northern Ireland
  - U.K.
  - E.U.
- **Consequences of HPAI outbreak**
- **Consequences of LPAI outbreak**
- **Compensation: LPAI and HPAI**

# HPAI Poultry Outbreaks - 2021/2022 Season



## Six HPAI outbreaks in IE (Cavan and Monaghan)

- First outbreak confirmed November 20th 2021
- Last outbreak confirmed December 20th 2021

## Six HPAI outbreaks in NI

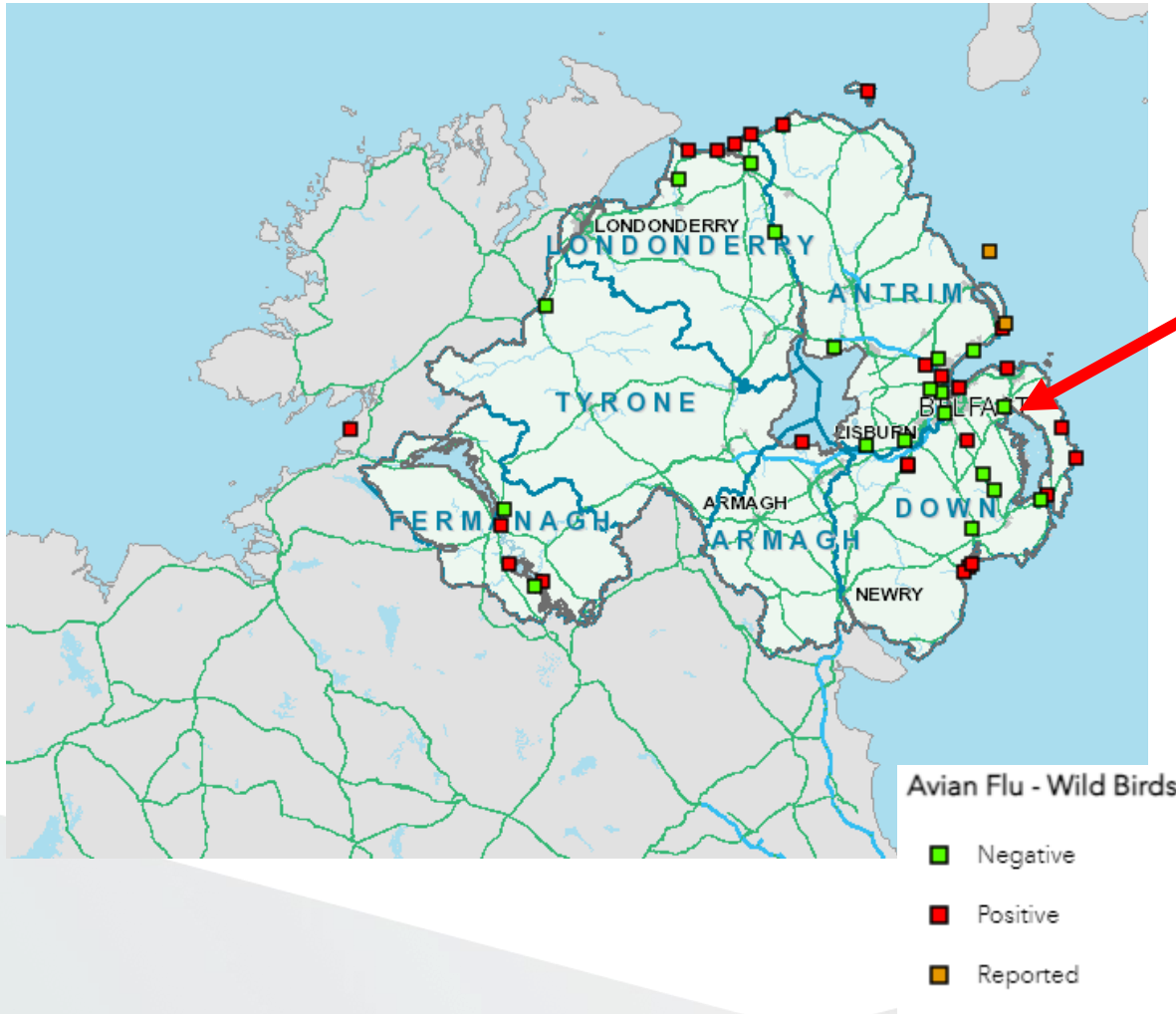
- Some zones spanned both jurisdictions
- Co-operation and collaboration with DAERA colleagues



# HPAI in Ireland 2022/2023 season

- No outbreaks of HPAI in **poultry**
- **13 October** –Avian Influenza H5N1 confirmed in a small captive bird flock in a residential area of Sutton, Co Dublin
  - Flock owner has no links to the poultry industry
  - Wild birds suspected of introducing infection
  - No introduction of zones

# Current situation in N.I.

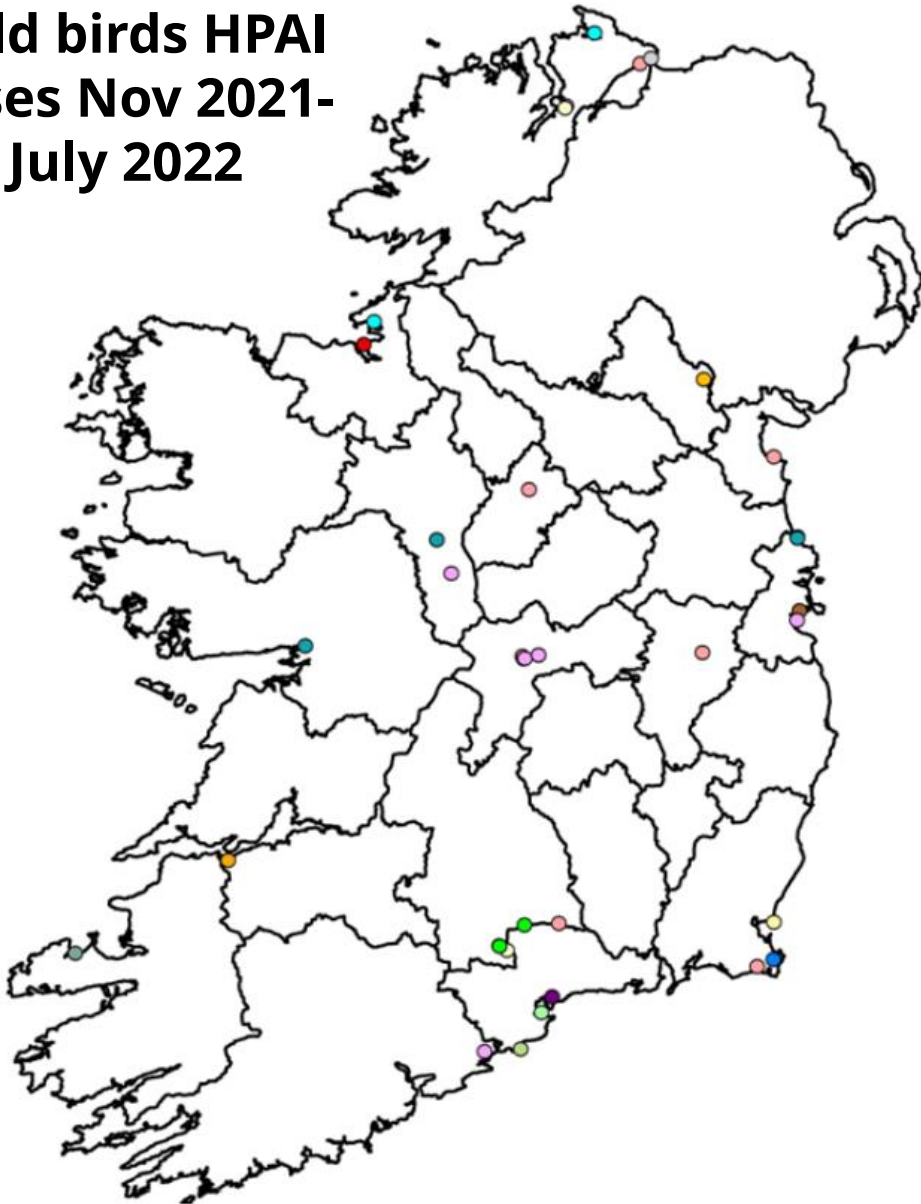


## Captive bird temporary control zone

- Castle Espie Wildlife and Wetland Trust
- Near Comber, Co. Down
- Suspected case of notifiable AI identified 11<sup>th</sup> October
- Now confirmed to be HPAI H5N1



## Wild birds HPAI cases Nov 2021- July 2022



# Wild birds



- **Wild bird surveillance programme allows for early detection**
- **Informs risk assessment for poultry sector**
- **Member of the public can notify DAFM through:**
  - Avian Influenza Hotline 01 607 2512 (office hours)
  - National Disease Emergency Hotline (outside office hours) 01 492 8026
  - Avian Check App  
<https://aviancheck.apps.rhos.agriculture.gov.ie/>

## Wild birds HPAI cases since July 2022



## Wild birds



- Since July cases of HPAI have been found in coastal areas
- Mostly Northern Gannets

# Avian influenza in wild birds since 2019



Year	No. positive
2019	0
2020	23 (H5N8)
2021	5 (H5N8)
	2 (H5N3)
	64 (H5N1)
2022 (up to 10/10/2022)	76 (H5N1)
	2 (H5Nx)
	1 undetermined

	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sept-22
Monthly number of wild birds with confirmed avian influenza	0	54	13	5	6	6	1	0	0	2	12	47



# Current wild bird collection policy



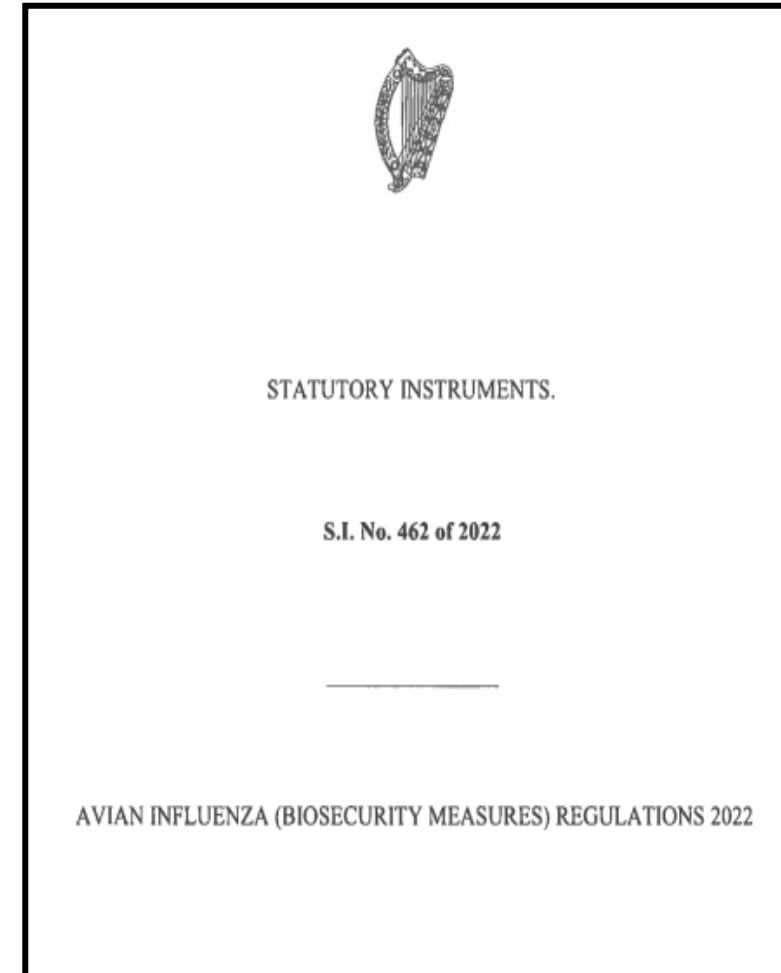
- **Wild birds not currently being collected for surveillance purposes in coastal counties**
- **Other areas:**
  - 1 or more birds of prey, including owls
  - 3 or more waterfowl, seabirds or gulls
  - 5 or more of any other birds

While all wild birds may not be collected for sampling, it is important for surveillance and risk assessment purposes that deaths are reported to DAFM

# Avian Influenza (Biosecurity Measures) Regulations 2022



- **Introduced 19th September 2022**
- **Makes biosecurity measures a mandatory requirement for anyone with poultry or captive birds**



# Advice for poultry keepers



## Biosecurity is the best defence

### Management

- Biosecurity is a mindset, as well as a set of procedures
- Only as strong as the weakest link
- Must be implemented consistently.....all day, every day

### Personnel and Visitors

- Essential personnel and vehicles
- Disposable or dedicated outer clothing
- Boots that can be properly disinfected, hand washing facilities

### Buildings and equipment

- Must not be accessible to wild birds
- Have suitable pest control in place
- Clean & Disinfect all vehicles and equipment that come in contact with birds

# Current HPAI situation in U.K.



## England

- 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021- 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022: 158 outbreaks
- 1<sup>st</sup> Oct- 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022: 29 outbreaks

## Scotland

- Oct 2021-Sept 2022: 11 outbreaks

## Wales

- Oct 2021-Sept 2022: 7 outbreaks

# Avian Influenza Prevention Zones



## **Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex**

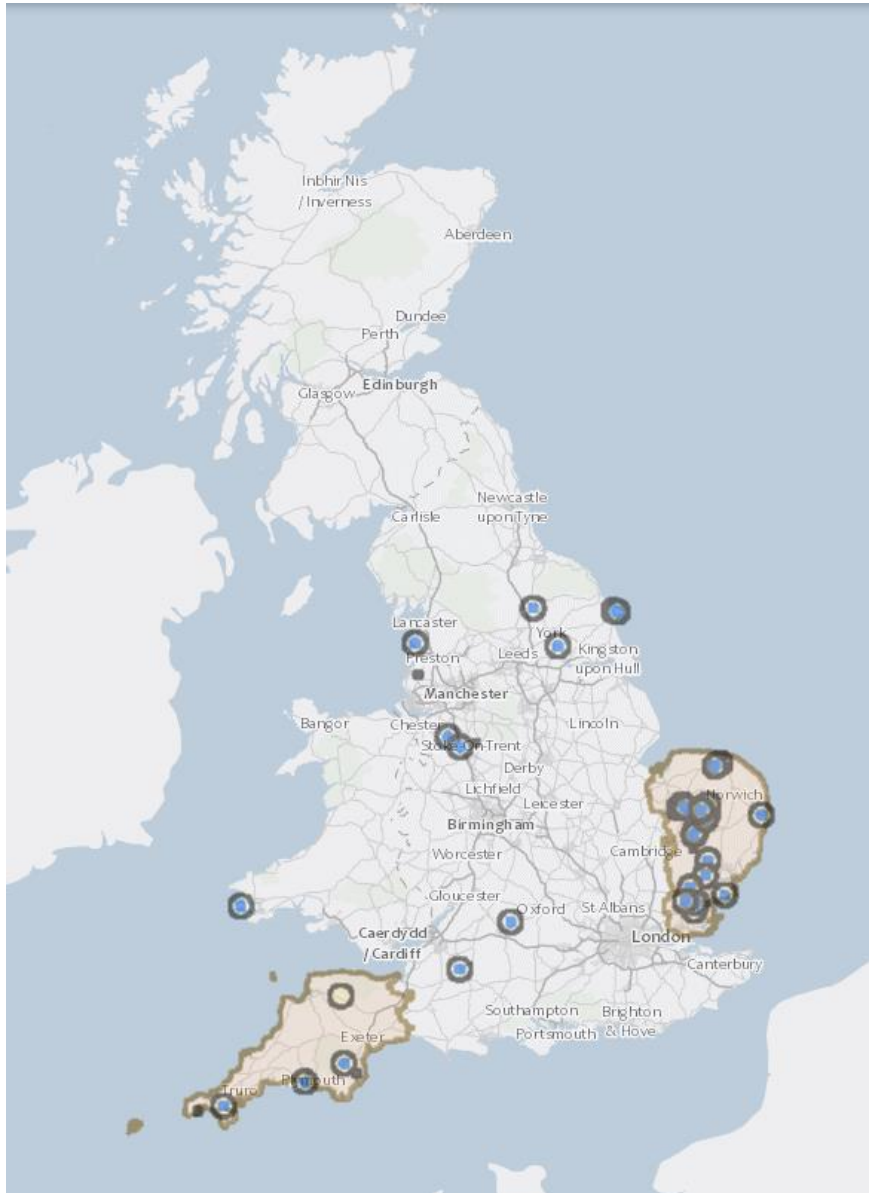
- Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds since 12<sup>th</sup> October
- Enhanced biosecurity measures

## **Cornwall, Devon, Isles of Scilly and part of Somerset**

- Enhanced biosecurity measures



# Control Zones in U.K.



3km Protection Zone



10km Surveillance Zone



3km Captive Bird (Monitoring) Controlled Zone

Regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone



# Current HPAI situation in the EU



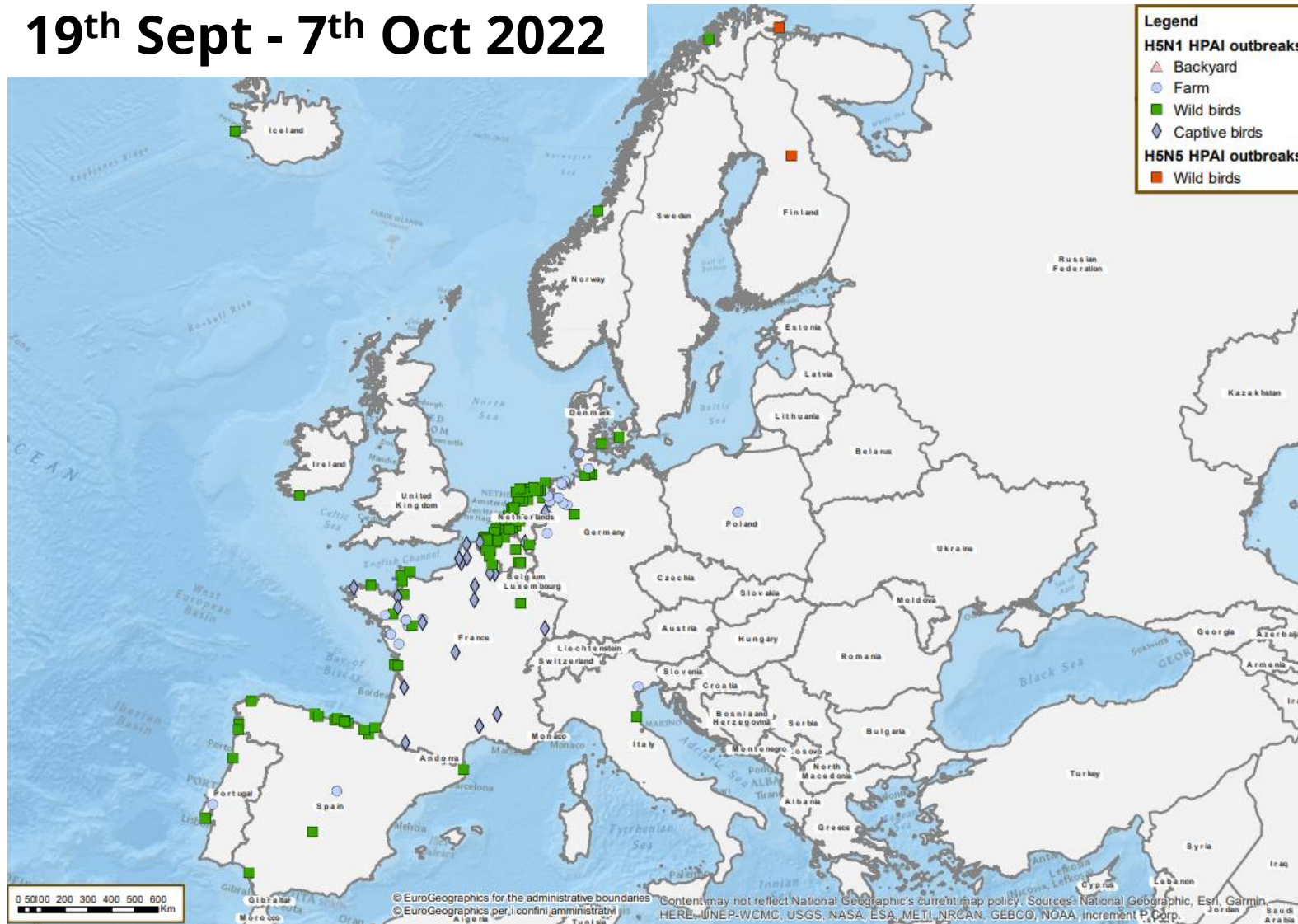
## 2021/2022 season:

- Largest HPAI epidemic in Europe
- Over 2,500 outbreaks in poultry and captive birds
- 48 million birds culled in affected establishments
- Worst affected EU Member States (% of total outbreaks in poultry):
  - France (58%)
  - Hungary (12%)
  - Italy (13%)
  - Germany (4%)
  - Netherlands (3%)
- 86% of outbreaks were secondary, i.e., between farm spread
- HPAI found in wild birds throughout the summer: large die-offs in sea bird breeding colonies in Germany, France, Netherlands, and the UK

# Current HPAI situation in the EU



19<sup>th</sup> Sept - 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022

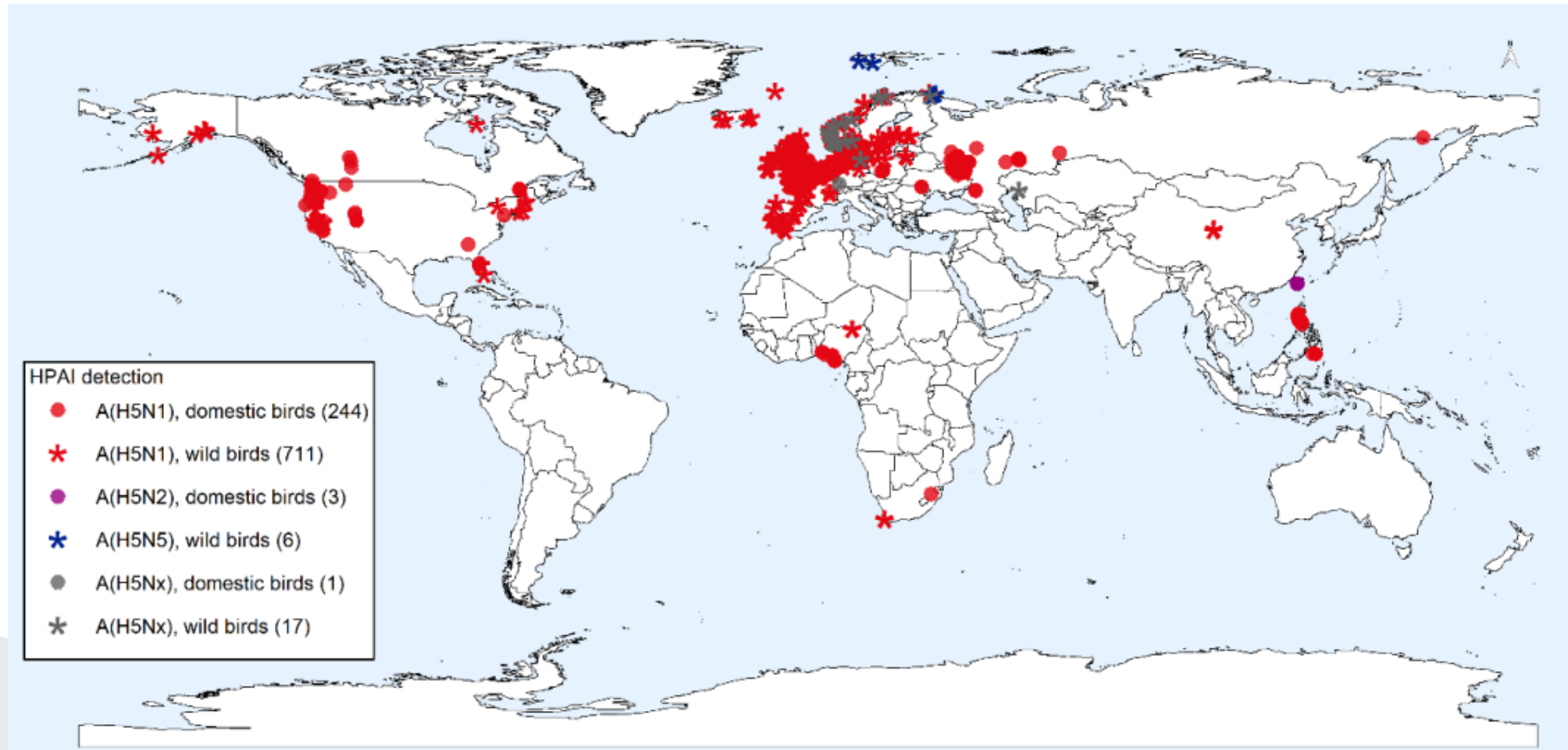


# Current HPAI situation in the EU (19th Sept- 7th Oct 2022)



COUNTRY	Poultry	Captive birds	Wild birds*	Total
THE NETHERLANDS	5	2	39	46
FRANCE	7	18	11	36
BELGIUM	4	4	17	25
SPAIN	1	0	16	17
GERMANY	9	0	6	15
NORWAY	0	0	3	3
PORTUGAL	1	0	2	3
DENMARK	0	0	2	2
ITALY	1	0	1	2
FINLAND	0	0	1	1
ICELAND	0	0	1	1
POLAND	1	0	0	1
IRELAND	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>153</b>

# Global situation in the EU (11th June-9th Sept)





# Consequences of HPAI outbreak



**Requirements for Category A diseases outlined in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ('Animal Health Law') and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, which include:**

- Stamping out policy on affected premises followed by cleaning and disinfection
- Introduction of protection zone (3km) and surveillance zone (10km)
- Visits by DAFM to establishments in PZ and SZ
- Surveillance and sampling
- Movement restrictions of live poultry and poultry products
  - Movement licences required
- Designations of meat plants, hatcheries and egg packing centres

**Loss of WOAH (founded as OIE) self-declared HPAI free status**  
**<https://www.woah.org/en/disease/avian-influenza/>**



# Designation (1)

- In the event of HPAI outbreaks in Ireland, certain establishments would need to be designated in order to manage movement of poultry/poultry product in and out of restricted zones
- **Requirement under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 Animal Health Law**
- Egg Packing Centres, Hatcheries, Slaughterplants
- Egg Packing Centres dealing exclusively with eggs laid on the same premises do not need to apply for designation



## Designation (2)

- Approval as a designated establishment can only be awarded by DAFM
- Anyone who applied for designation **and** had a satisfactory inspection carried out for the process of designation last year does not need to re-apply this year
- **Final approval of designation** is only ever granted in the event of an outbreak of HPAI in Ireland. In order to activate your provisional designation, you **must contact the NDCC**

# Compensation for HPAI



- Provided for under the Animal Health & Welfare Act 2013
- Payment to owner of the animals or items affected
- Consequential losses not covered
- Compensation may be reduced or not payable at all in a number of situations, including if an owner failed
  - to implement appropriate biosecurity measures
  - to take reasonable measures to alleviate the risk, or spread, of disease or a disease agent.



## **Valuation tables:**

- DAFM receive bi-yearly valuation tables relating to the most common species and types of poultry in Ireland.
- These form the basis for the valuation of affected owners.
- Payments are made to affected owners as soon as possible once all relevant documentation is received and checked by DAFM officials.

## **EU co-funding:**

- The Department can currently recoup up to 50% of costs incurred by an EU MS in relation to an eligible disease.

Farm Biosecurity Plan in conjunction with advisor is recommended



# LPAI Outbreak



- Outbreak in 2020 was confirmed in 14 commercial poultry flocks in Co. Monaghan.
- Industry wide and included broilers, turkeys, broiler breeders and caged and free range laying hens.
- All flocks treated as HPAI AI suspect until the LPAI was confirmed as H6N1
- All flocks were voluntarily depopulated
- LPAI is notifiable to DAFM

# LPAI



- Clinical Signs include-
  - Mild localised infection with low mortality
  - Egg drop in laying birds with thin weak colourless egg shells.
  - Mild respiratory symptoms.
- Wild birds can carry LPAI with no clinical signs & a major source of infection
- Important Transmission routes include people, materials e.g. egg trays and transport; Contiguous spread from farm to farm is common.
- Birds shed virus 3-5 days before clinical signs
- **Biosecurity** is paramount to stopping the transmission of LPAI

# Conclusion



- 2021/2022: worst HPAI epidemic in Europe
- HPAI outbreak in captive birds in NI
- HPAI found in wild birds in coastal areas in Ireland
- Avian Influenza (Biosecurity Measures)  
Regulations 2022 in force
- **Biosecurity is key to prevent outbreaks**