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# LOW PATHOGEN NOTIFIABLE AVIAN INFLUENZA CURRENT SITUATION IN FRANCE

In Saint Aubin du Plain (Deux-Sèvres (79) department)

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Report by :

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## Introduction.

Samples have been taken during the nationwide active surveillance program of avian influenza in poultry farms in a herd of 9 000 ducks ready to be force-fed, located in Saint Aubin du Plain (79300), Deux-Sèvres department (79). Results from the national reference laboratory (AFSSA Ploufragan) confirm the low pathogen avian influenza H5 virus on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

French authorities have notify on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the outbreak of **low pathogen** avian influenza in Saint Aubin du Plain (79300), Deux-Sèvres department to OIE and to the European Commission.

The stamping out and disposal of all ducks of the infected farm took place on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The last event of low pathogen avian influenza has been confirmed in France on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. France is free from avian influenza since may 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, according to article 10.4.3 of the terrestrial code (2008).

## Timeline.

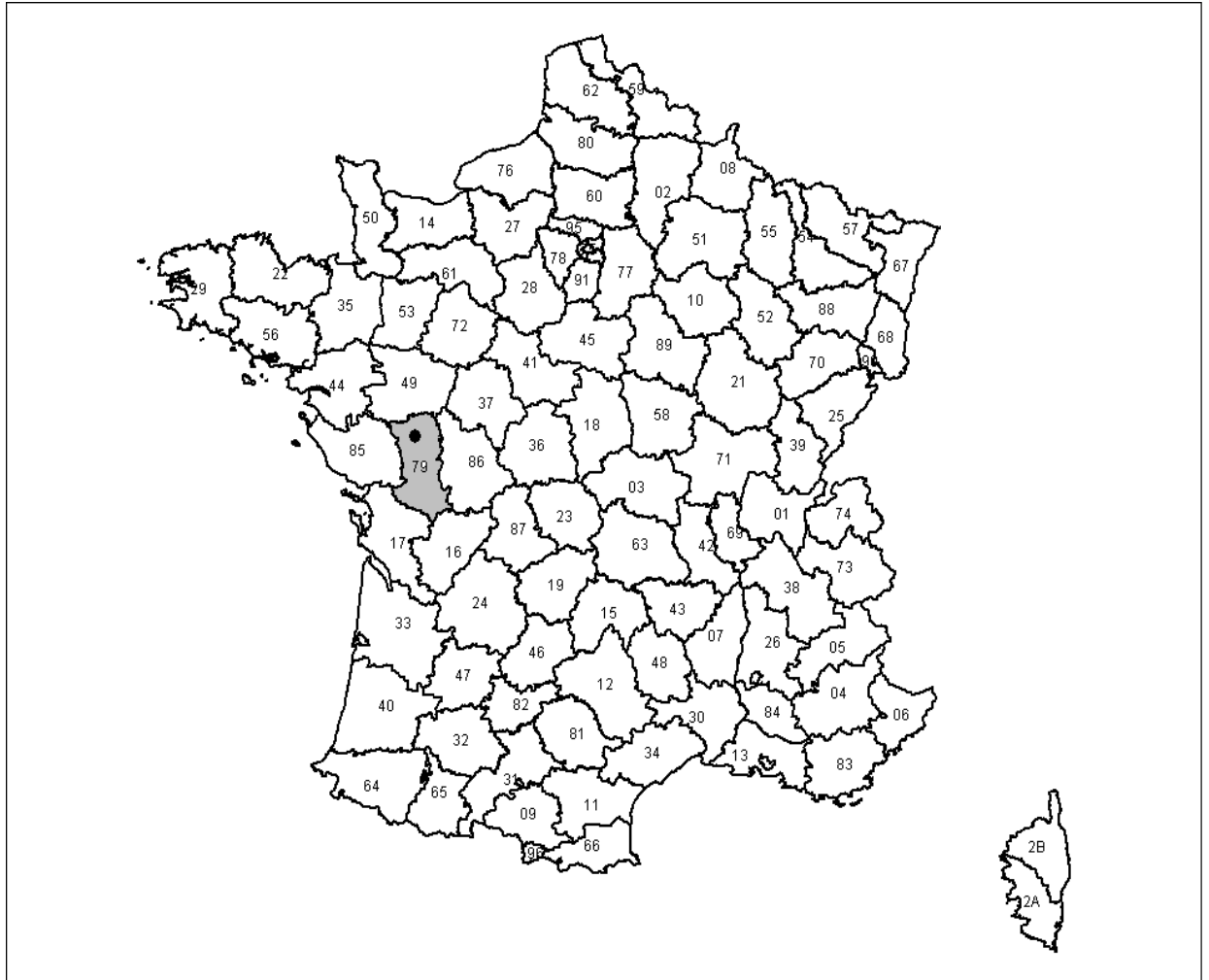
Date	Chain of events and testing
October 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Prefectoral monitoring decree (<i>Arrêté préfectoral de mise sous surveillance</i>, or APMS).</li> <li>* Implementation of a restricted zone with a 1 km radius following positive serological results from the National Reference Laboratory.</li> </ul>
November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt;&gt; Test results from national reference laboratory : H5 subtype confirmed but no evidence of highly pathogenic H5N1 virus.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Outbreak of H5 subtype notifiable avian influenza diagnosed.</b></p>
November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* European Commission is notified of LPNAI outbreak.</li> <li>* OIE is notified of LPNAI outbreak .</li> <li>* On-site stamping out of all poultry of the infected farm.</li> <li>* Preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations carried out.</li> </ul>
November 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* N3 subtype confirmed.</li> </ul>





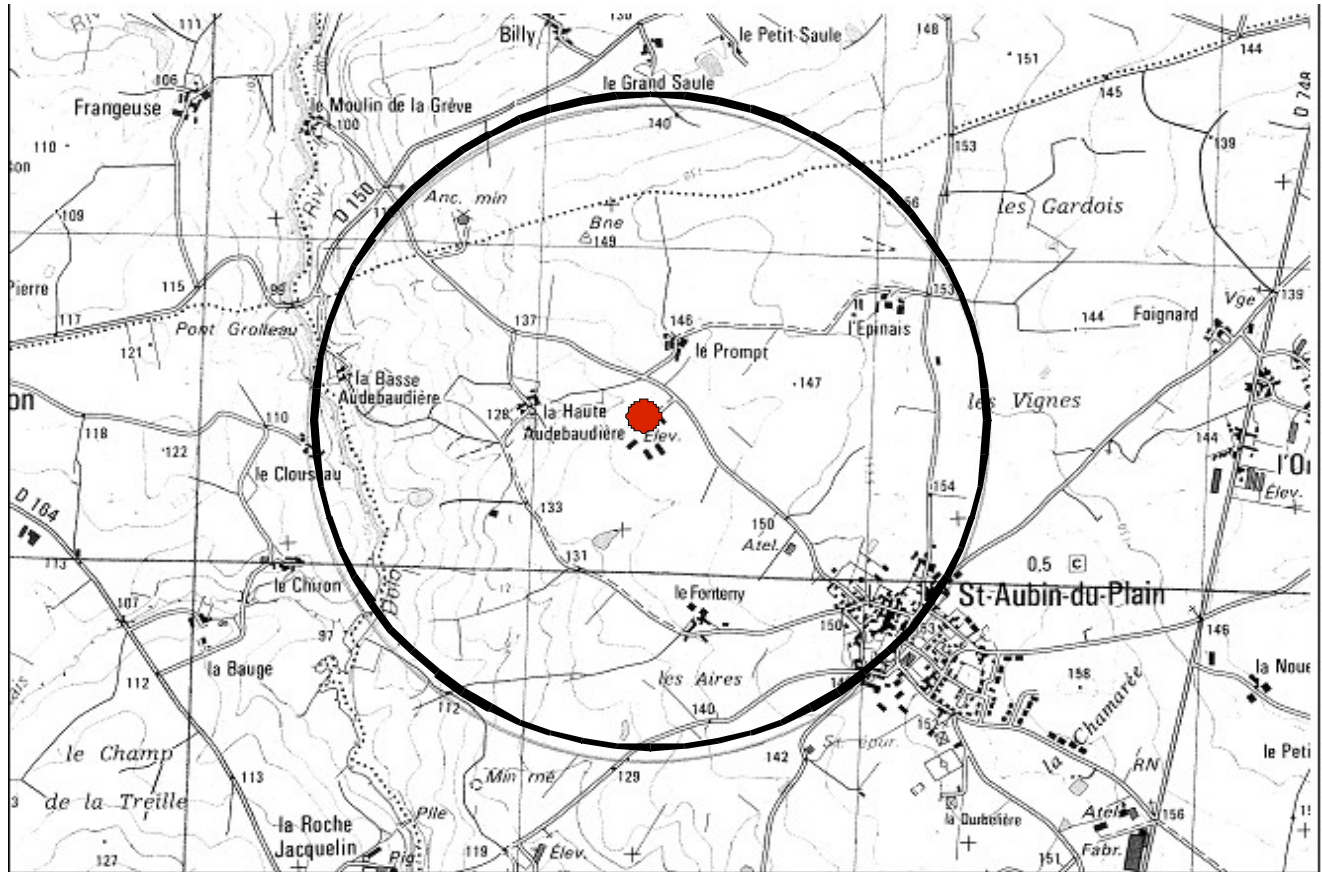
## Location.

### Location of outbreaks in France ( $46^{\circ} 55' 46''$ N ; $00^{\circ} 29' 11''$ W)





### Local map with outbreak and restricted zone (1 km)



## Control measures taken in France

### a.1.Zoning.

All movement of poultry, poultry products, and poultry sub-products into and out of the infected farm are strictly forbidden since October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. A restricted zone with a 1 km radius is put in place around the infected farm. No other farms stand in the regulatory restricted zone.

### a.2.Stamping out.

All birds of the infected farm have been slaughtered on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Carcasses have been sent to the rendering plant the same day.

### a.3.Disinfection of premises of the infected farm.

Preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations were carried out on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as soon as the slaughter was completed.

### a.4.Vaccination is forbidden.

### a.5.No treatment on contaminated birds.





## Epidemiological study

The exact origin of the disease is unknown.

**The epidemiological study has revealed that the virus has not been disseminated from this farm and no other farms stand in the regulatory restricted zone with a 1 km radius around the infected farm.**

This concludes all investigations regarding this event.

## Laboratory tests.

Laboratory tests have been done in the National Reference Laboratory of AFSSA Ploufragan. Tests put in place are RT-PCR (avian influenza type A, sub-type H5) and sequences of this virus strain's genetic fragments have been realized (presence of a cleavage pattern in low pathogenic H5 strains).

Laboratory tests have been done on swabs from trachea and cloaca.

N is identified by PCR assay: N3

## Observations and conclusion.

A **low pathogen** avian influenza H5N3 subtype outbreak has been identified in France during the nationwide active surveillance program and confirmed on November 13<sup>h</sup>, 2009.

**The epidemiological study has revealed that no poultry product from the infected farm was offered for sale on the French market, exchanged, or exported during the 21-day risk period before the confirmation. There is no other poultry farms in the restricted zone.**

The on-site stamping out of all birds of the infected farm has been done on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations were carried out during the slaughter operations and a 21-day-long prophylactic quarantine was put in place.

All restrictions will be lifted 21 days after the start of cleaning and disinfection operations, in compliance with EC law.

In the absence of a new LPNAI outbreak and according to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, France will recover its notifiable avian influenza-free status 90 days after the completion of the cleaning and disinfection operations in the infected farm.

