

Switzerland bans Dutch poultry imports, new bird flu cases in Holland

November 21 2014

Switzerland on Friday said it was banning chicken imports from Britain and the Netherlands, as Dutch officials said they detected bird flu on three more farms.

The Swiss move will come into effect on Saturday and apply to live chickens and chicks as well as eggs from the affected zones in the two countries, the Federal Office for Food Security and Veterinary Affairs said.

Belgium meanwhile ordered poultry owners to confine their birds as a precautionary measure following the outbreak in neighbouring Holland.

The Dutch economic affairs ministry confirmed that a second [bird flu](#) outbreak detected on Thursday on a farm at Ter Aar, close to the first case east of The Hague, was the highly pathogenic H5N8 strain, previously detected only in Asia.

Some [strains](#) of [avian influenza](#) are fatal for chickens, and pose a health threat to humans, who can fall sick after handling infected poultry.

Bird flu was detected on three other farms in and around Kamperveen, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of the first outbreaks, the Dutch economic affairs ministry said in a statement on Friday.

The birds on all three farms will be destroyed and the farms disinfected, the ministry said, with tests being carried out to establish if the strain is

the highly infectious H5N8 strain.

Britain has also reported an avian influenza outbreak at a duck breeding farm in Yorkshire, northern England, which on Tuesday was confirmed to be H5N8.

The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed more than 400 people, mainly in southeast Asia, since first appearing in 2003.

Another strain of bird flu, H7N9, has claimed more than 170 lives since emerging in 2013.

The H7N7 strain of [avian flu](#) severely hit the Netherlands in 2003 with health authorities destroying some 30 million birds in an effort to quash an outbreak.

There are some 95 million chickens on Dutch [poultry farms](#) and egg exports totalled some 10.6 billion euros (\$13.2 billion) in 2011, according to the latest Dutch statistics.

© 2014 AFP

Citation: Switzerland bans Dutch poultry imports, new bird flu cases in Holland (2014, November 21) retrieved 12 September 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-11-switzerland-dutch-poultry-imports-bird.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.