

COMMUNICATION of the FASFC

Low pathogenic avian influenza virus on two poultry farms
23/12/2008

Within the monitoring programme the FASFC has diagnosed two cases of the H5 virus type, one in the province of Oost-Vlaanderen and in the province of Limburg.

Although the exact strain of virus is not yet identified, **it is definitively not the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain, but a low pathogenic stain (H5N2 to N9).**

As laid down in the EU regulations, the poultry of both farms is culled and the sanitisation of the farms carried out. The concerned poultry farmers will be compensated by the Sanitary Fund.

Low pathogenic virus strains are regularly detected by the monitoring programme in the European Union. The monitoring in Belgium comprises yearly more than 10.000 samples taken from poultry as well as wild birds. Every year the FASFC detects about 10 cases of such low pathogenic strains. Most infections are asymptomatic.

The preventive measures are intended to prevent the transmutation of these low pathogenic strains into more virulent strains, which definitively cause illness in poultry.