



International Alliance for  
Biological Standardization



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## Vaccination and Surveillance for High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in poultry: Current Situation and Perspectives

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### HPAI control: the Japan perspective (exporting and importing country perspectives)

The worldwide spread of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses has caused huge outbreaks and economic losses in poultry over the past few years. HPAI outbreaks in Japan occur mainly in autumn and winter as winter birds (geese, ducks, swans etc.) migrate from the north in autumn, harbouring the HPAI viruses. Most recently, Japan has experienced HPAI outbreaks in recent 4 winters in a row. The outbreak in the winter of 2022-2023 was the worst ever, with 84 cases in 26 prefectures, which resulted in culling of over 17 million poultry and a shortage of table eggs (and rising prices) in Japan.

Contrary to this large outbreak in 2022-2023 winter, only limited occurrence was observed in 2023-2024 winter. Japanese experts pointed out that high biosecurity and preparation before winter season might contribute to preventing larger outbreak. Together with the high biosecurity on farms, Japan has a well-developed Veterinary Services: There are 166 Livestock Hygiene Service Centres (LHSCs) with 2,064 official local veterinarians throughout Japan (as of April 2024). Once an HPAI case is confirmed, the poultry reared in the affected farm is depopulated mainly by the local government officers (and Japan Self-Defense Forces) and compensation for culling is paid to the affected farmers. This rigorous Veterinary Services enables immediate detection and quick response to contain the disease by stamping-out policy without secondary spread. In this situation, vaccination is not a viable option since vaccination without rigorous surveillance allows silent virus circulation.

Japan is both an importing country and an exporting country of chicken meat, egg and egg products. Therefore, in the presentation from Japan, the both perspectives will be shared.

