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HPAI Control and surveillance in China

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I. General Information

1. Poultry annually increases by 3-8% for nearly 3 decades in China

In 2007, China poultry:

- 15.5 billion fowls raised
- 5.4 billion fowls in stock



2. Poultry transportation and live market

Also increase rapidly in China



3. Inadequate biosecurity

Therefore, China poultry

- Vulnerable to exotic infectious diseases
- Difficult to control and eliminate these infectious diseases

1996: first H5 HPAI virus isolated

- From Guangdong province, backyard geese
- A/goose/guangdong/1/96 (H5N1)

Before this, the H5 HPAI viruses have...

- circulated in the Europe and Asia at least for decades
- Caused a dozen of outbreaks in poultry in multiple countries including England, South Africa, Italy, Australia, etc.



- 1983 Ireland
- 1991 England
- 1997 Italy



Dec. 2003 – Feb. 2004

- Pandemic in fowls began in East and Southeast Asia
- Outbreaks reported in Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Laos
- China reported the H5N1 HPAI outbreaks in 16 provinces

April. 2005

- Many wild birds died in Qingdai Lake in the western province of China
- Later, this variant (clade 2.2) caused many outbreaks in Mid and West Asia, Africa, Europe



Where did the variant came from?

- Some suspected: South China
- Actually: unknown
- Iceberg phenomenon: little surveillance prior the outbreak
- Probability
- The variant was always very rare in South China
- Few birds migrated to the lake from South China



HPAI: 01/2004 - 06/2008

Year	Outbreaks	Deaths (1,000)	Slaughtered (1,000,000)
2004	50	129	8
2005	32	155	23
2006	10	47	3
2007	4	22	0.09
2008	6	NA	0.59

HPAI Situation in China in 2007



4 poultry outbreaks
5 human cases, 3 fatal

HPAI Situation in China in 2008



- 6 poultry outbreaks
- 3 fatal human cases

II. HPAI Control Policy in China

Principles: Early, Quick, Strict

- Early: Discover, report, diagnose, ASAP
- Quick: Response, ASAP
- Strict: Strict measures

Contain the outbreak Minimize the spread

Comprehensive measures

- Compulsory vaccination: all domestic birds are compulsory for vaccination, including backyard flocks.
- Stamping-out: all the infected and suspect animals within the epidemic spot should be slaughtered, well buried and disinfected with proper compensation and biosecurity
- Others: surveillance, education, biosecurity enhancement in poultry production, transportation and markets, international cooperation, etc.

Maintain high-level political commitment

- The National Instruction Headquarter for the HPAI control established in the early 2004
- MoA, MoH, MoF and others: co-ordination
- The Commander-in-chief: a Vice-premier.
- The local governments also established similar coordination organizations for HPAI.

Strengthen the legislative system on animal diseases

- The National Contingency Plan for HPAI stipulated by the State Council in 2004
- The Regulations on Emergency Response to Major Animal Epidemics stipulated by the State Council in 2005
- State plan for rapid response to animal health emergencies stipulated by the State Council in 2006
- State plan for rapid response to HPAI stipulated by the State Council in 2006
- The Law of the People's Republic of China on Animal Epidemic Prevention (adopted 1997-07-03, revised 2007-08-30)



The Law of the People's Republic of China on Animal Epidemic Prevention





III. Twelve key points of emergency responses

1: Investigation/report

- Where/when/what/whether
- Report
- Sampling for detection
- Cleaning and disinfection should be applied, if needed

2: Confirmation/decision

- Confirmation: seriously, correctly, quickly
- Decision making

3: Classification of infected point/zone and threatened area



Infected point (epidemic spot): Premises with infected poultry or relevant slaughterhouses and other establishments

Infected areas: within the 3km radius.

Threatened areas: within 5 km around the infected areas.

Sometimes geographical and vaccination barriers should be considered

4: Stamping-out in the infected zone



- To cull and destroy all infected and susceptible fowls and the cohort ones
- If there are too many fowls in the infected area and most have been vaccinated, antibody surveillance could be applied in advance to identify the unsusceptible fowls

Disposal with Bio-safety





5: Emergency vaccination in the threatened area



6: Cleaning and disinfection









7: Movement control











8: Closing the market





9: Tracing in and out

Where did it come from?Where could it spread to?

10: Human protection

- Occupational staff of poultry rearing, trade and transportation and process
- People in the infected areas should be under observation
- Stringent protective measures must be implemented for staff participating in the destroying infected birds

11: Surveillance

- Emergency surveillance for area classification
- Surveillance after the emergency vaccination for validation of the effect of vaccination
- Surveillance of mammals including humans and pigs

12: Quarantine lift

- At least 21 days after infected point and infected area have been strictly treated and no new cases occur.
- At least 14 days after all the susceptible birds in the threatened area have been emergently vaccinated and no new cases occur.
- The lift should be issued by some relevant authorities.
- The infected points could be re-stocked 6 months after the lift.

Question 1: Who is responsible for emergency responses?

- The main responsibility entity: the local government at the county level
- The provincial government and the central government are responsible to supply with technical and financial support and inspection

Question 2: What should we do before confirmation?

- Sampling and doing confirmation ASAP
- Report
- Suspected infected spot: isolation and strict movement control, stamp out, disinfect, Strict prevent from the moving out of animal and animal production and related materials, Strict disinfection, Monitor the local live market.
- Surveillance on local poultry and swine flocks for early diagnosis and tracing in and tracing out.

IV. HPAI Surveillance in China

Surveillance functions

- Outbreak surveillance: diagnosis, time and space distribution, loss estimation, trace in and trace out, early warning, susceptible flock identification, emergency vaccination effect, quarantine lift
- Routine surveillance: early warning, time and space distribution, susceptible flock identification, vaccination effect, policy making and policy evaluation

Surveillance entities

- 146 border animal diseases surveillance stations
- 300 animal disease surveillance stations at the areas with high animal density
- 2,800 Surveillance Labs and stations at county level with serological test capability
- 31 Surveillance Centers (Labs) at Provincial level with RT-PCR detection capability
- 3 National surveillance Centers such ACDC, CAHEC, NAIRL with BSL-3 Labs

China has established the animal diseases surveillance system at Central, provincial, municipal and county levels.



In 2008, China National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory in Harbin was selected as one of the OIE AI reference laboratories.

Providing diagnosis service for neighboring countries.

Surveillance guidelines

Annually, The National Surveillance Program for HPAI and other animal diseases issued by MOA since 2004



Surveillance methods

- Passive surveillance
- Active surveillance
- Serological surveillance
- Pathogenic surveillance
- Scanning surveillance
- Targeted surveillance

Surveillance targets

- Domestic and wild birds, Pigs
- Different types of poultry farmers, live markets

Surveillance results

- Published in OFFICIAL VETERINARY BULLETIN
- http://www.agri.gov.cn/ztzl/sygb/

Surveillance in 2006 (1)

From Jan-Oct, on domestic fowls:

- 4.8 million vaccinated sera samples: 86.86% with protective antibody titer
- 452,400 unvaccinated sera samples: none antibody-positive
- 318,900 pathogenic samples: 24 positive

Surveillance in 2006 (2)

From Jan-Oct, on wild birds:

- 680 sera samples: 2 positive
- 18,300 pathogenic samples: 16 positive from 3 provinces of Liaoning, Tibet and Qinghai

Surveillance in 2006 (3)

- From Jan-Oct, on other birds (ostriches and quails, etc):
- 11,542 vaccinated sera samples: 60.55% with protective antibody titer
- 203 unvaccinated sera samples: none positive
- 10,740 pathogenic samples: 1 positive from Guizhou

Surveillance in 2006 (4)

From Jan-Oct, on pigs:

- 8,400 sera samples: 10 positive
- 21,000 pathogenic samples: 0 positive

Pathogenic surveillance results from 2004 to 2007

Year	Pathogen samples (unit: 1,000)	Pathogenic Positives
2004	93	16
2005	209	21
2006	465	50
2007	306	40
2008 #	293	46
Total	1366	173

#: As of Jan-July 2008

Risk assessment based on surveillance results

- South China
- Live market
- Duck
- Backyard fowls
- Sporadic outbreaks and human cases will exist for years to come in China

Thank you for your attention!