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Self-declaration for the recovery of zonal freedom from high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry by Türkiye

Self-declaration sent to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on 14 August 2023 by Prof. Dr. Ahmet Gümen, WOAH Delegate for Türkiye, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

1. Introduction

Within the scope of the *Directive Related to the Definition and Declaration of Zones Free from Notifiable Avian Influenza Disease*, 81 provinces of the country were separately evaluated and declared as free zones (Table 7), and hereby they were declared to WOAH on 5 January 2017. The objective of this declaration is the recovery of self-declared freedom from infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (HPAI) in accordance with the provisions of Article 10.4.6. of the WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*. The self-declaration covers 81 provinces of the country and describes two outbreaks of HPAI in poultry that occurred in Afyonkarahisar province from 31 January 2023 to 09 June 2023 and in Denizli province from 23 February to 08 May 2023. The whole country became free from HPAI, after recovery of free status in the two zones where the disease was detected.

The starting date of the self-declaration is 22 July 2023.

2. HPAI situation Türkiye.

Türkiye has been free from HPAI since 15 August 2015, as per the self-declaration published by WOAH on 5 January 2017. The country lost this self-declaration following one outbreak in January 2023 and a second outbreak about one month later. For the first outbreak, animal deaths were reported in two laying farms in Afyonkarahisar on 31 January 2023 and HPAI-subtype H5N1 was confirmed by Regional Veterinary Control Institute on the same day. The remaining 20 farms in the outbreak area within a 10 km radius of the index farm were sampled. Finally, the closeness of the farms to each other was accepted as a risk, and culling was carried out in 22 farms in a 10 km area, including 2 farms where disease was detected. On 18 May 2023, the last cleaning and disinfection was completed, and the outbreak ended on 15 June 2023.

For the second outbreak, animal deaths were reported in a laying farm in Denizli on 23 February 2023 and the samples taken on the same day were sent to the Regional Veterinary Control Institute. HPAI-subtype H5N1 was confirmed on 24 February 2023. On 16 April 2023, the last cleaning and disinfection was completed and the outbreak ended on 14 May 2023. The outbreaks were notified to WOAH with the same event ([ID 4878](#)). However, it is not known if there is any epidemiological link between these two outbreaks.

[Event 4878-Final Report](#)

a. Details of the outbreaks in the zones of Denizli and Afyonkarahisar

It was reported that a total of 29,000 poultry died in two separate egg farms in Başmakçı district on 31 January 2023 in Afyonkarahisar. In the second outbreak that occurred in Denizli, 2000 poultry died on 23 February 2023.

In both outbreaks, the samples taken were sent to the Regional Veterinary Control Institute. As a result of the Real-time PCR, HPAI-subtype H5N1 was detected. A 3 km protection zone and 10 km surveillance zone was established around each outbreak. Movement restriction and quarantine measures were immediately implemented. Epidemiological investigation and screening were carried out in these zones. During the epidemic period, Real-Time PCR test was performed on cloacal and tracheal swabs taken from villages and other farms within the 10 km outbreak area. All poultry were culled and all animal products were destroyed in the surveillance zone with a radius of 10 km based on the risk seen as a result of the screening.

Zone	Species	Susceptible	Cases	Deaths	Killed and Disposed
Afyonkarahisar	Poultry	2,968,005	97,000	97,000	2,871,005
Denizli	Poultry	1,390,000	30,781	2,000	1,388,000

Table.1 – Numeric data of the outbreak in Afyonkarahisar and Denizli

For animal movements within the province until the zonal free status was recovered, it is obligatory to obtain a Veterinary Health Report, which contains more strict rules, instead of the Animal Transport Declaration that is always used. For transportation to other free provinces from outside a radius of 10 km outbreak area, in addition to the Veterinary Health Report, which is always used in inter-provincial transport, samples were taken from poultry; ELISA test on blood serum and Real-Time PCR test on cloacal and tracheal swabs were performed before transport. In case of any doubt, virus isolation was performed. When negative result was found transport to other provinces was allowed. Thus, the spread of the disease to free regions was prevented.

The export of poultry and poultry products from the HPAI-infected zone was not allowed.

Poultry, fertilizers derived from these animals and eggs, carton tray, carton tray storing boxes, packaging and labelling materials, feed and feed raw materials were destroyed. How the said poultry and animal products will be destroyed is determined in Article 12 of the Avian Influenza Contingency Plan, titled "Disposal of Animals and Animal Products". Within the scope of the same article, the above-mentioned animals and animal products were destroyed by burying them in the pits dug in the designated places. The way of cleaning and disinfection is determined in Article 8.3.11 titled "Cleaning and Disinfection" of the Contingency Plan.

After the cleaning and disinfection, sentinel animals were placed on the farm where culling had been made, and these animals were monitored on the farm for 21 days and at the end of this period. Within the scope of the Avian Influenza Contingency Plan and the Biosafety Instruction of Commercial Broiler and Layer Poultry Farms, sentinel animals at least 3 weeks are placed at least 1% of the operating capacity in all culled holdings. Sentinel birds had free movement in the henhouse, came into contact with a large surface of the henhouse and were equally distributed throughout the henhouse. Sentinel animals were monitored and clinically examined for 21 days, and all dead or sick animals were examined in the laboratory. At the end of the period, blood, swab and faeces samples were taken from the animals and tested for HPAI.

In Afyonkarahisar, 37,785 sentinel animals were placed in total 19 farms that were culled, and 283 poultry that died during a 21-day period were sent to the Regional Veterinary Control Institute for testing. At the end of the period, 20 tracheal, 20 cloacal and 20 blood samples (in total, 1,140 samples) were taken from each farm and sent to the Regional Veterinary Control Institute for testing. Real-Time PCR Test and ELISA were performed to show the absence of virus in sentinel animals. This process is not included in the active surveillance program to recover the free status of the province.

In addition, dead sentinel animals were necropsied. Organ samples were taken, and Real Time PCR Test was performed for detection of Avian Influenza Matrix Protein from organ samples (lung, trachea, brain and caecal tonsils). AI Antibody ELISA test is tested in blood serum taken from sentinel animals. As a result of the tests performed, the sample results were found to be negative and Avian Influenza virus was not detected. The end date for the outbreak is 9 June 2023.

In Denizli, 13,200 sentinel animals were used in similar conditions in one farm that were culled, and 207 poultry that died during a 21-day period were sent to the Regional Veterinary Control Institute for testing. At the end of the period, total 343 swabs and blood samples were taken from the sentinel animals. As a result of the tests (Real Time PCR in swab and carcasses, ELISA in blood samples), the sample results were found to be negative and Avian Influenza virus was not detected.

3. Control and eradication measures for HPAI

In case of detection of disease, cordon, quarantine, compensation, culling, destruction, rising awareness, cleaning and disinfection, active and passive survey are carried out. When the disease is detected, cordoning and quarantine measures are implemented by establishing a 3 km protection and 10 km surveillance zone immediately. The entry and exit of poultry is prohibited in the 10 km area. During the epidemic, samples are taken regularly from all villages within a 10 km area and sent to the Regional Veterinary Control Institute. Informing the public in an area of 10 km is carried out and in case of any bird death, the Provincial and District Directorates are instructed to notify them as soon as possible. Notifications are made and active clinical surveillance studies are carried out, especially in villages, so that poultry is not allowed to be taken to the open area.

Commercial broiler and layer poultry holdings, hatcheries and breeding poultry holdings are registered to TÜRKVET and Poultry Information System based on flock, and descriptive numbers starting with the plate codes of the provinces are given to all holdings and flocks. All information of commercial holdings such as operating type, breeding type, animal type, and breeding subtype are recorded in the Poultry Information System. The movements of poultry flocks, slaughtering and hatching eggs are traced through this system. The transports of table eggs to the packaging facilities are made through the TÜRKVET system in order to ensure food tracing.

Hatching egg and day-old chick production of hatchery and breeding poultry holding, activity approval certificate and health certification restrictions of these holdings, movements of commercial broiler and laying hen holdings and biosecurity restrictions of these enterprises and disinfection restrictions between periods of commercial broiler and laying holdings are traced through the Poultry Information System. Movement and slaughtering of flocks and hatching eggs registered in the system are also carried out instantly through the system.

4. Surveillance programme

a. Active surveillance

The surveillance programme conducted following a two stage sampling. The sampling population was not limited to the outbreak zones, however, it included all districts and villages in the affected provinces. For the first stage of the surveillance, 30 units of 655 and 31 units of 582 backyard and commercial farms were selected randomly in Afyonkarahisar and Denizli respectively with a 10 % expected prevalence and 95 % confidence interval. In the second stage, with a 15 % expected prevalence, and 95 % confidence interval, 20 poultry animals were randomly selected from the each sampling unit and, tracheal and cloacal swabs were taken from each animals, a total of 1,200 (30x20x2) samples from Afyonkarahisar and total of 1,240 (31x20x2) Denizli were taken by official veterinarians and sent to the avian influenza National Reference Laboratory. The places where samples were taken in the surveillance conducted to regain the self-declared freedom of Afyonkarahisar and Denizli provinces (Fig.1 and 2).

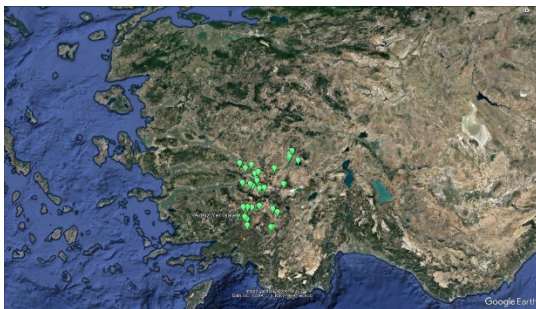


Figure 1. Surveillance Map for Denizli province Outbreak



Figure 2. Surveillance Map for the Afyonkarahisar province outbreak

Bornova Veterinary Control Institute has been determined as National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza. The other Regional Veterinary Institutes are regularly confirmed by the Bornova Veterinary Control Institute in terms of their analyses. In the diagnosis of animal diseases, all laboratories use the WOAH *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* or the methods accepted by the European Union.

The laboratory results of the surveillance carried out in the affected provinces to demonstrate freedom from HPAI is shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 2 - Laboratory results of the surveillance in Denizli (sampled between 08.05.2023-05.06.2023)

Province	District	Village	Number of Sample	AI MATRIX PCR
Denizli	Acıpayam	Gedikli	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Acıpayam	Yumrutaş	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Beyağaç	Kapuz	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Beyağaç	Subaşı	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Bozkurt	Hayrettin	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Çameli	Yeşilyayla	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Çameli	Cumaalanı	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Çivril	Koçak	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Çivril	Beyköy	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Çivril	Menteş	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Güney	Hamidiye	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Honaz	Emirazizli	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Kale	Köprübaşı	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Kale	Kayabaşı	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Kale	Çamlarca	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Merkezefendi	Salihaga	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Merkezefendi	Çeltikçi	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Merkezefendi	Çakmak	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Merkezefendi	Yeşilyayla	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Pamukkale	Kayıhan	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Pamukkale	Çeşmebaşı	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Pamukkale	Haytabey	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Sarayköy	Hisar	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Tavas	Kızılcı	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Tavas	Hırka	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli	Tavas	Ulukent	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli			40	NEGATIVE
Denizli			40	NEGATIVE
Denizli		Commercial Poultry Farms in the Province	40	NEGATIVE
Denizli			40	NEGATIVE
Denizli			40	NEGATIVE
TOTAL			1,240	

Table 3 - Laboratory results of the surveillance in Afyonkarahisar (sampled between 09.06.2023-22.07.2023)

Province	District	Village	Number of Sample	AI MATRIX PCR
Afyonkarahisar	Dazkırı	Bozan	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Dazkırı	Yüreğil	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Dinar	Tekin	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Dinar	Gencali	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Emirdağ	Büyüktuğluk	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Emirdağ	Yarımca	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Emirdağ	Başkonak	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Emirdağ	Örenköy	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Emirdağ	Yukarıkurudere	40	NEGATIVE

Afyonkarahisar	Evciler	Bostancı	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Kızılören	Türkbelkavak	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Sandıklı	Şeyyahşi	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Sandıklı	Dutağaç	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Sandıklı	Ballık	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Sinanpaşa	Çayhisar	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Sinanpaşa	Kınık	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Çay	Pınarkaya	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Çay	Akkonak	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Çay	Çayır yazı	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	İhsaniye	Kayihan	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	İhsaniye	Kadımürsel	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	İscehisar	Çalışlar	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	İscehisar	Seydiler	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	İscehisar	Merkez	40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar	Commercial Poultry Farms in the Province		40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar			40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar			40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar			40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar			40	NEGATIVE
Afyonkarahisar			40	NEGATIVE
TOTAL			1,200	

b. Passive surveillance

Within the scope of passive surveillance, in case of suspicion of animal disease in accordance with the Regulation on Notifiable Animal Diseases and Notification, relevant persons such as private veterinarians, animal owners, animal keepers, headmen, village guards, dealers, shepherds, ship captains, station or customs officers or administrators must notify the authority.

c. Early warning of high pathogenicity avian influenza (Early warning system)

In the disease-free period/peace time, active surveillance is carried out twice a year, covering the whole country, in spring and autumn, in order to be informed about the disease early. In addition, active clinical surveillance is carried out in villages and commercial holdings throughout the year.

d. Surveillance in wild bird populations

Deaths detected in wildlife are reported to the veterinary service and samples are taken for test as soon as possible. The number of wild birds sampled in the last year is given in the table below. All these samples tested negative.

Table 4. No. of sampled wild birds

Eagle	Hawk	Dove	Owl	Flamingo	Partridge	Seagull	Pigeon	Falcon	Pheasant	Crow	Total
1	2	2	1	9	2	6	7	5	20	1	56

5. Measures implemented to maintain freedom in the country

Combat against Avian Influenza Disease is carried out within the scope of the Regulation on Protection and Control of Avian Influenza, the Contingency Plan for Avian Influenza, the Directive Related with the Definition and Declaration of Zones Free from Notifiable Avian Influenza.

According to “Directive Related with the Definition and Declaration of Zones Free from Notifiable Avian Influenza”, 81 provinces of Türkiye are defined as 81 free zones within their administrative/legal borders (Table 7 and Figure 3). This is based on the fact that each province is the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry and that each province is managed within itself, so that the population and biosecurity measures of each province are carried out within itself. Each zone consists of poultry populations with the same disease-related health status under the biosecurity management system. Animal transport between provinces/zones can be carried out with a veterinary

health report obtained from the veterinary service at the provincial directorate. The basis of the directive is Chapter 4.4. of Terrestrial Animal Health Code and national avian influenza control regulation. Within the scope of *same directive*, active surveillances are carried out twice a year as spring and autumn and active clinical surveys conduct throughout the year since 2017 in the the whole country.

In the absence of disease/peace time, animal transports within the province/zone are made with the Animal Transport Declaration, and inter-provincial movements are made with the Veterinary Health Report. In case of a disease, all movements are made with a Veterinary Health Report. Additional conditions such as sampling from poultry and sealing of vehicles are applied before the Veterinary Health Report is issued for the dispatches to be made from outside a radius of 10 km outbreak area to the free zone. As specified in Section 2.a, exit from the area within a radius of 10 km around the outbreak is prohibited. Animals can be transferred from the outbreak province, from outside the 10 km area, by providing additional conditions. Within the scope of the *Directive* certain conditions have been introduced in order to preserve the status of the free zone in the transfer of animals from a non-free zone to a free zone. In this context, samples are taken from poultry and the transport of negative poultry is allowed. All animal transfers are made through the Poultry Information System, and the analysis reports of the animals sent are added to the Veterinary Health Report. In addition, when a transfer is made to a free zone, that zone is informed with an official letter and the sent poultry are quarantined for 21 days at the arrival holding.

During the epidemic period, ELISA test on blood serum and Real-Time PCR test on cloacal and tracheal swab are performed serologically before shipment to the free regions. In case of any doubt, virus isolation is performed. In preparation for the disease, real-time simulation exercises are carried out regularly every year. In certain periods, the National Disease Crisis Center convenes and exchanges information with other institutions and organizations.

a. Spring surveillance program for 2023

The surveillance is planned to cover all 81 declared free provinces/zones and the entire poultry population. The prepared surveillance program was designed in accordance with the surveillance strategies in Article 10.4.29. of the *Terrestrial Code*, by considering epidemiological data and avoiding excessively expensive or logistically difficult applications. In accordance with the surveillance program, each village where backyard poultry is kept and each commercial holding has been determined as an epidemiological unit. The study population consists of domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks.

Settlements on wetlands are an important risk factor for the spread of Avian Influenza disease. This was also demonstrated in a systematic review study conducted in 2014. Considering this risk factor, in the surveillance study, importance was given to the villages close to the wetlands in order to increase the probability of finding the disease and it was planned to take more samples from these areas. For this purpose, villages close to wetlands have been identified throughout the country. It was determined that 5,774 out of 37,764 villages were close to wetlands and the calculation was made to take approximately 3 times (2,77) more samples than the number of villages from these regions.

Since the country population is infinite (∞) (i.e. more than 10.000) and the expected prevalence is assumed to be 1% in the surveillance program, the number of primary sampling units required to identify at least one positive case with a probability of 95% is determined as 299. The secondary sampling unit refers to the poultry to be sampled from each flock (epidemiological unit) in order to identify at least one positive animal in the flock with a probability of 95% assuming that the percentage of positive animals in the sampled flock is 15%. As the secondary sampling unit, samples are taken from 20 poultry in each flock. Although there is no active surveillance study specific to wildlife in the country, the villages and farms close to the wetland are taken into account while preparing the active surveillance plan. In addition, Provincial Directorates have been instructed to send samples to Regional Veterinary Laboratories as soon as possible in case of death in wildlife in order to detect possible Avian Influenza cases early (Table 4).

The results of the active surveillance conducted regularly since 2017 and the spring 2023 active surveillance results on the basis of zones are presented below:

Table 5. Results of active surveillance between 2017-2023

2017	Number of Epidemiological Unit	Sample	Test	Result
1. Perio	600 Units	21,009 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative

		10,029 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
2. Period	600 Units	20,469 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		9,934 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
*Active clinical surveillance were conducted in 8,540 villages and 3,468 commercial poultry farms.				

2018	Number of Epidemiological Unit	Sample	Test	Result
1. Period	600 Units	20,469 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		9,990 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
2. Period	600 Units	20,279 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		7,918 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
*Active clinical surveillance were conducted in 11,119 villages and 3,743 commercial poultry farms.				

2019	Number of Epidemiological Unit	Sample	Test	Result
1. Period	300 Units	10,377 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		4,347 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
2. Period	300 Units	10,726 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		4,555 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
*Active clinical surveillance were conducted in 12,375 villages and 3,973 commercial poultry farms.				

2020	Number of Epidemiological Unit	Sample	Test	Result
1. Period	300 Units	10,925 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		5,434 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
2. Period	300 Units	10,380 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		4,383 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
*Active clinical surveillance were conducted in 11,434 villages and 3,748 commercial poultry farms.				

2021	Number of Epidemiological Unit	Sample	Test	Result
1. Period	300 Units	11,254 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		5,566 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
2. Period	300 Units	11,550 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		5,796 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
*Active clinical surveillance were conducted in 15,318 villages and 4,367 commercial poultry farms.				

2022	Number of Epidemiological Unit	Sample	Test	Result
1. Period	300 Units	10,336 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		5,624 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
2. Period	300 Units	10,125 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		5,451 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
*Active clinical surveillance were conducted in 11,451 villages and 3,713 commercial poultry farms.				

2023	Number of Epidemiological Unit	Sample	Test	Result
1. Period	300 Units	9,556 tracheal-cloacal swabs	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
		5,403 blood serums	AI MATRIX PCR	Negative
*Active clinical surveillance have been conducted in 4,643 villages and 1,571 commercial poultry farms since the beginning of the year.				

Table 6: Detailed results of 2023 spring active surveillance

ZONE (PROVINCE)	NUMBER OF SWAB	RESULT (Real-Time PCR)	NUMBER OF BLOOD SERUM	RESULT (ELISA)
01-ADANA	200	Negative	100	Negative
02-ADIYAMAN	*Due to the earthquake in 2023, samples could not be taken.			
03-AFYONKARAHİSAR	**			
04-AĞRI	80	Negative	50	Negative
05-AMASYA	120	Negative	60	Negative
06-ANKARA	520	Negative	260	Negative
07-ANTALYA	60	Negative	60	Negative
08-ARTVİN	40	Negative	20	Negative
09-AYDIN	120	Negative	80	Negative
10-BALIKESİR	440	Negative	220	Negative
11-BİLECİK	80	Negative	40	Negative
12-BİNGÖL	40	Negative	40	Negative
13-BİTLİS	40	Negative	40	Negative
14-BOLU	600	Negative	300	Negative
15-BURDUR	40	Negative	40	Negative
16-BURSA	240	Negative	120	Negative
17-ÇANAKKALE	40	Negative	20	Negative
18-ÇANKIRI	160	Negative	80	Negative
19-ÇORUM	160	Negative	80	Negative
20-DENİZLİ	**			
21-DİYARBAKIR	80	Negative	80	Negative
22-EDİRNE	80	Negative	40	Negative
23-ELAZIĞ	80	Negative	80	Negative
24-ERZİNCAN	80	Negative	40	Negative
25-ERZURUM	200	Negative	100	Negative
26-ESKİŞEHİR	160	Negative	80	Negative
27-GAZİANTEP	120	Negative	60	Negative
28-GİRESUN	120	Negative	60	Negative
29-GÜMÜŞHANE	44	Negative	22	Negative
30-HAKKARİ	40	Negative	40	Negative
31-HATAY	*Due to the earthquake in 2023, samples could not be taken.			
32-ISPARTA	40	Negative	40	Negative
33-MERSİN	360	Negative	180	Negative
34-İSTANBUL	280	Negative	140	Negative
35-İZMİR	100	Negative	100	Negative
36-KARS	120	Negative	60	Negative
37-KASTAMONU	120	Negative	60	Negative
38-KAYSERİ	160	Negative	80	Negative
39-KIRKLARELİ	120	Negative	60	Negative
40-KIRŞEHİR	20	Negative	10	Negative
41-KOCAELİ	160	Negative	80	Negative
42-KONYA	80	Negative	80	Negative
43-KÜTAHYA	130	Negative	75	Negative
44-MALATYA	80	Negative	60	Negative
45-MANİSA	300	Negative	220	Negative
46-K.MARAŞ	*Due to the earthquake in 2023, samples could not be taken.			
47-MARDİN	60	Negative	60	Negative
48-MUĞLA	108	Negative	60	Negative
49-MUŞ	40	Negative	40	Negative

50-NEVŞEHİR	80	Negative	40	Negative
51-NİĞDE	60	Negative	40	Negative
52-ORDU	200	Negative	100	Negative
53-RİZE	40	Negative	20	Negative
54-SAKARYA	480	Negative	240	Negative
55-SAMSUN	244	Negative	100	Negative
56-SİİRT	40	Negative	40	Negative
57-SİNOP	80	Negative	40	Negative
58-SİVAS	200	Negative	100	Negative
59-TEKİRDAĞ	100	Negative	42	Negative
60-TOKAT	170	Negative	84	Negative
61-TRABZON	120	Negative	60	Negative
62-TUNCELİ	60	Negative	60	Negative
63-ŞANLIURFA	160	Negative	80	Negative
64-UŞAK	20	Negative	40	Negative
65-VAN	80	Negative	80	Negative
66-YOZGAT	80	Negative	40	Negative
67-ZONGULDAK	160	Negative	80	Negative
68-AKSARAY	40	Negative	40	Negative
69-BAYBURT	40	Negative	20	Negative
70-KARAMAN	20	Negative	20	Negative
71-KIRIKKALE	40	Negative	20	Negative
72-BATMAN	60	Negative	60	Negative
73-ŞIRNAK	40	Negative	20	Negative
74-BARTIN	40	Negative	20	Negative
75-ARDAHAN	80	Negative	40	Negative
76-IĞDIR	80	Negative	40	Negative
77-YALOVA	80	Negative	40	Negative
78-KARABÜK	80	Negative	40	Negative
79-KİLİS	80	Negative	40	Negative
80-OSMANIYE	80	Negative	40	Negative
81-DÜZCE	160	Negative	80	Negative
TOTAL	9,556		5,423	

* In the 3 provinces (Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman and Hatay) where the earthquake caused the most damage, no samples could be taken in the spring period. No notification was received from the mentioned regions.

**Denizli and Afyonkarahisar provinces are the zones where the disease has been detected. 1,240 samples were taken from Denizli and 1,200 samples from Afyonkarahisar within the scope of the studies carried out to recovery of the free status. Their results were given in Table 2 and 3.

6. The Zones Free from HPAI in Türkiye

The declared 81 free zones and their codes are shown in the table below. In addition, legal zone boundaries can be seen on the country map given in Figure 3.

The whole country became free from HPAI, as recovery of free status the 2 zones where the disease was detected.

Table 7: Registration Numbers of Free Zones

Zone No	Zone (Province)	Zone No	Zone (Province)	Zone No	Zone (Province)
01	ADANA	28	GİRESUN	55	SAMSUN
02	ADIYAMAN	29	GÜMÜŞHANE	56	SİİRT
03	AFYONKARAHİSAR	30	HAKKÂRİ	57	SİNOP
04	AĞRI	31	HATAY	58	SİVAS

05	AMASYA	32	ISPARTA	59	TEKİRDAĞ
06	ANKARA	33	MERSİN	60	TOKAT
07	ANTALYA	34	İSTANBUL	61	TRABZON
08	ARTVİN	35	İZMİR	62	TUNCELİ
09	AYDIN	36	KARS	63	ŞANLIURFA
10	BALIKESİR	37	KASTAMONU	64	UŞAK
11	BİLECİK	38	KAYSERİ	65	VAN
12	BİNGÖL	39	KIRKLARELİ	66	YOZGAT
13	BİTLİS	40	KİRŞEHİR	67	ZONGULDAK
14	BOLU	41	KOCAELİ	68	AKSARAY
15	BURDUR	42	KONYA	69	BAYBURT
16	BURSA	43	KÜTAHYA	70	KARAMAN
17	ÇANAKKALE	44	MALATYA	71	KIRIKKALE
18	ÇANKIRI	45	MANİSA	72	BATMAN
19	ÇORUM	46	KAHRAMANMARAŞ	73	ŞIRNAK
20	DENİZLİ	47	MARDİN	74	BARTIN
21	DİYARBAKIR	48	MUĞLA	75	ARDAHAN
22	EDİRNE	49	MUŞ	76	İĞDIR
23	ELAZIĞ	50	NEVŞEHİR	77	YALOVA
24	ERZİNCAN	51	NİĞDE	78	KARABÜK
25	ERZURUM	52	ORDU	79	KİLİS
26	ESKİŞEHİR	53	RİZE	80	OSMANİYE
27	GAZİANTEP	54	SAKARYA	81	DÜZCE



Figure 3. HPAI Free Zone Map

7. Conclusion:

Considering that:

- Avian influenza is notifiable in Türkiye.
- Prior to the occurrence of outbreaks of HPAI on 31 January 2023, Afyonkarahisar and Denizli provinces had been free from infection with avian influenza in poultry since 15 August 2015.
- Sentinel animals were placed in the farms in order to prove the absence of virus circulation after the cleaning and disinfection and monitored for 21 days. At the end of this period, it was detected that there was no virus circulation and the disease ended on 9 June 2023.
- At least 28 days have elapsed, and infection with HPAI viruses in poultry has not been present in the zone, as stipulated in Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The WOA Delegate of Türkiye declares that the zones have met the requirements to regain the freedom from infection with HPAI viruses in poultry as of 22 July 2023, in accordance with Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* (2023) and consistent with the information provided in WAHIS.

Statement to be included in the self-declaration document.

I, the undersigned, Prof. Dr. Ahmet GÜMEN

Delegate of TÜRKİYE

to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), takes responsibility for the self-declaration of freedom from

High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in zone (disease)

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Drawn up on 28.07.2023

Signature of the Delegate:

ASumen
