Member's update on Avian Influenza (AI)

Japan

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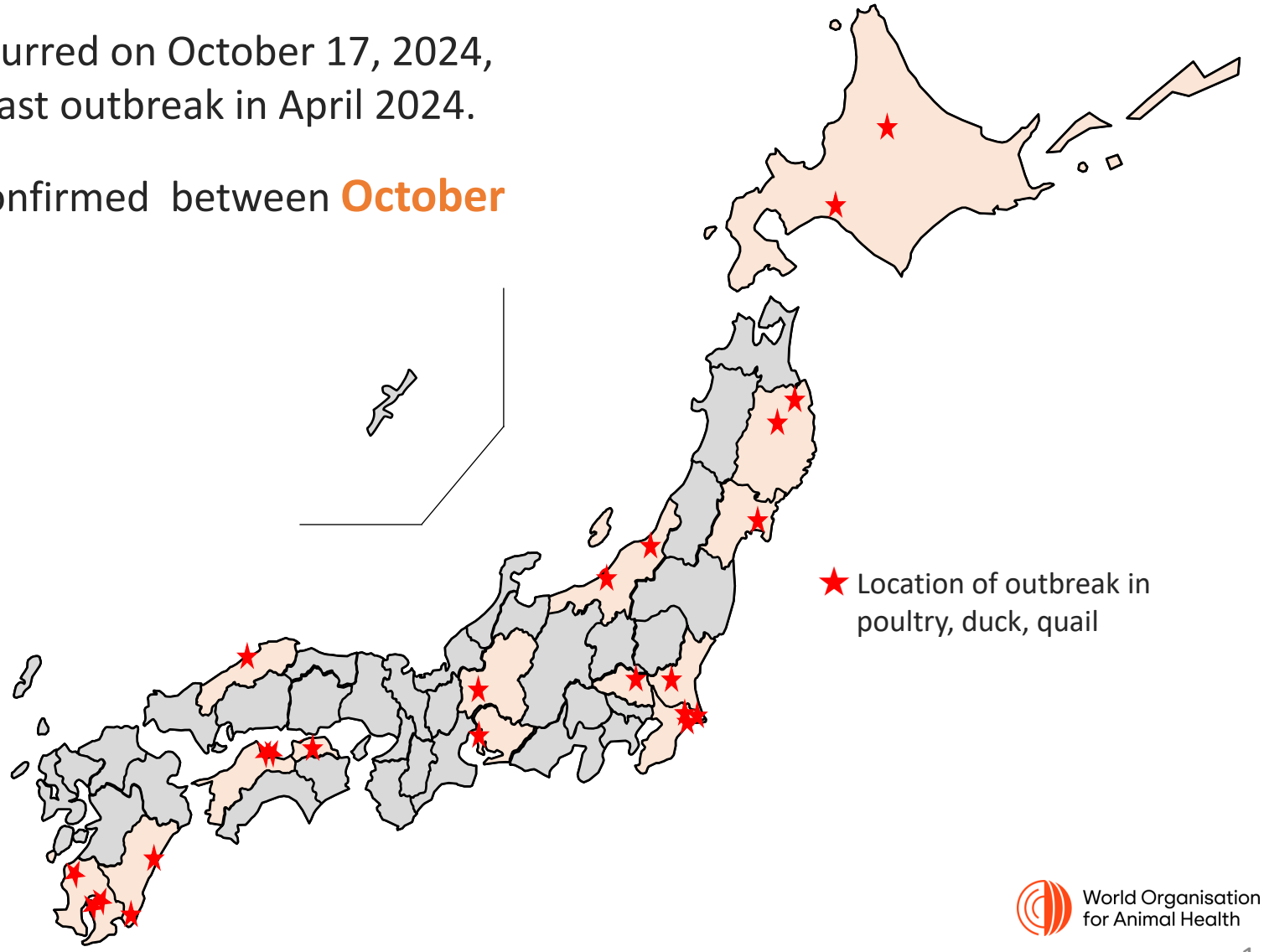
World Organisation for Animal Health

中华人民共和国农业农村部
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Disease situations: 2024/2025 epidemics

- The initial outbreak of HPAI (H5N1) occurred on October 17, 2024, first occurrence in 6 months since the last outbreak in April 2024.
- In total, **51 outbreaks** (H5N1) were confirmed between **October 2024** and **February 2025**.
- Out of 51 outbreaks,
  - **9 outbreaks** occurred on farms which have experienced recurrent HPAI outbreaks.
  - **16 outbreaks** occurred on large-scale layer farms with more than 200 thousand birds.



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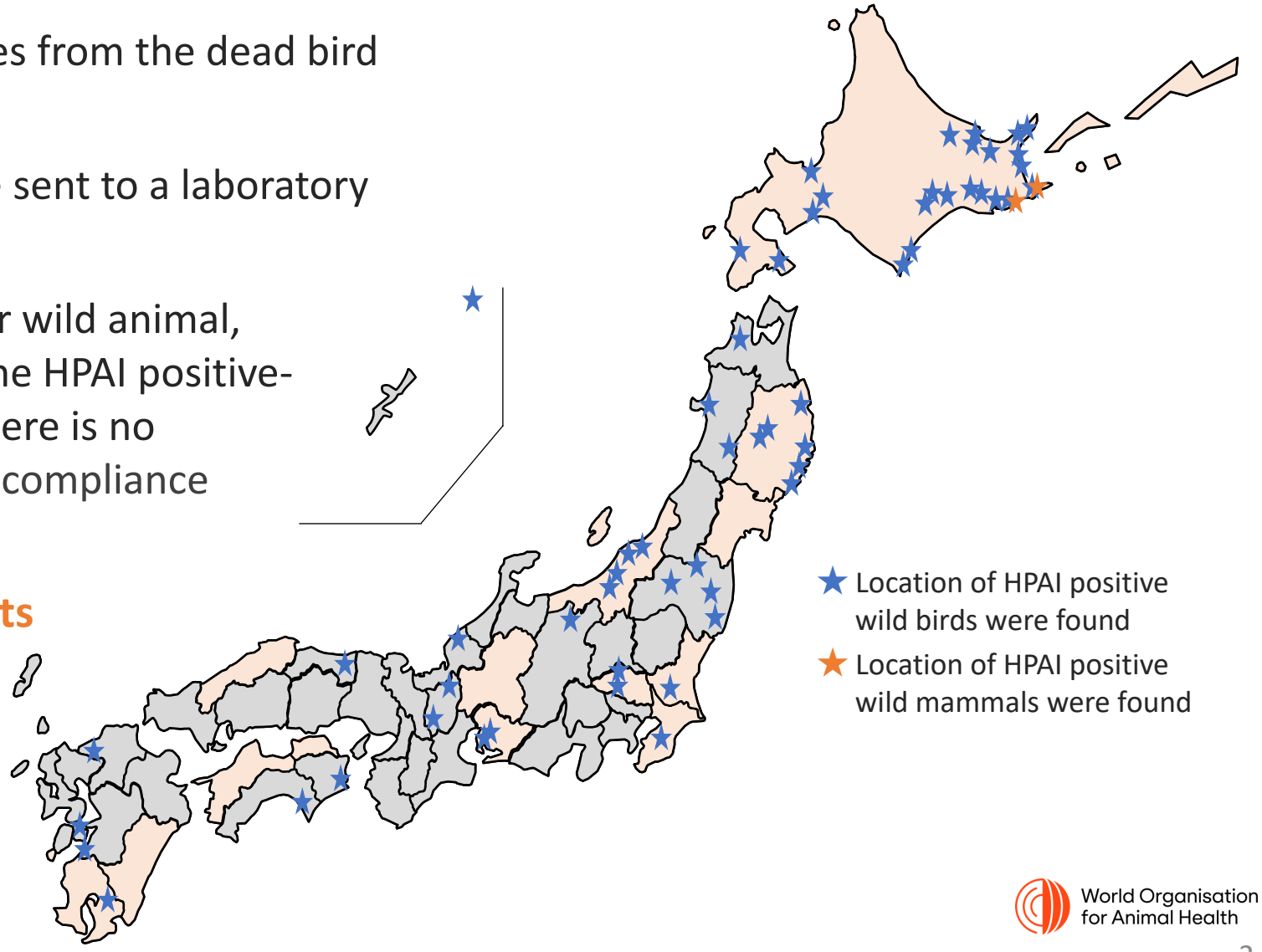
Disease situations: 2024/2025 wild birds

- When a dead wild bird is found, samples from the dead bird are taken for a rapid antigen test.
- If the result is positive, the samples are sent to a laboratory for confirmatory diagnosis.
- Upon detection of HPAI in a wild bird or wild animal, poultry farms within a 3 km radius of the HPAI positive-wild-bird point are checked whether there is no abnormality in poultry and the level of compliance with Biosecurity Standards.
- As of July 15, 2025, a total of **227 events** of HPAI were confirmed in wild birds and 5 events in wild mammals.



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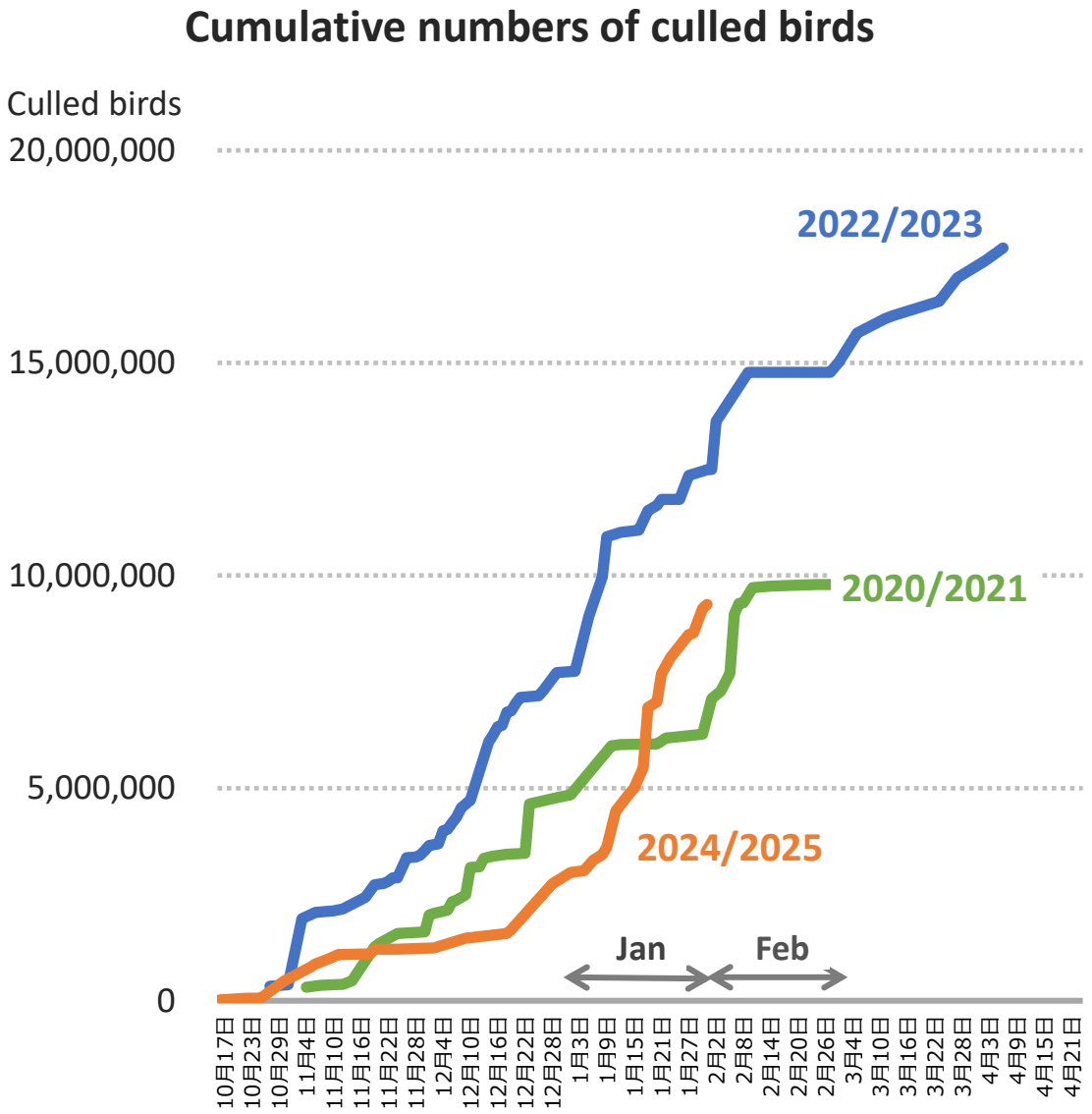
Disease situations: 2024/2025 epidemics

- A stamping-out policy was applied to affected and epidemiologically linked farms.
- As a result, about **9,320 thousand birds** were culled in total.
- About 70% (34/51) of the outbreaks occurred **in January**.
- About 60% (33/51) of the outbreaks occurred **in 3 poultry-dense areas during dry and windy season**.

  Within each poultry-dense area, genotypes of HPAI virus recovered from affected farms were identical.



Disease prevention and control

Guidebook for Biosecurity Standards

Identify and address shortcomings in biosecurity

- To ensure good biosecurity, especially for farms which have experienced recurrent HPAI outbreaks, **compliance with biosecurity standards** is checked.
- If non-compliance is identified, prefectural governments give guidance and advice to owners of poultry to address it.
- If an owner does not follow the guidance and advice, a prefectural government orders the owner to comply with the biosecurity standards.

Fill in a hole for prevention of wildlife intrusion into a poultry house

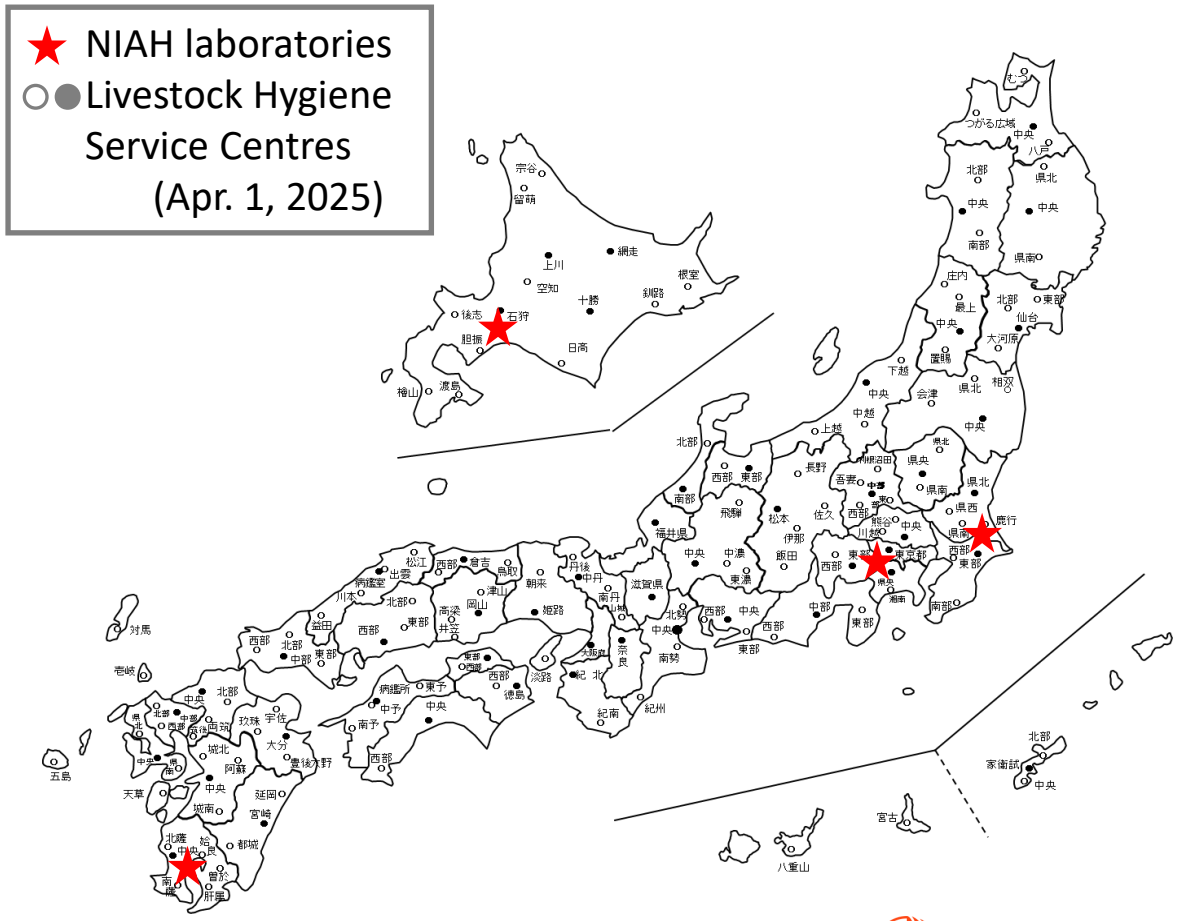
Preventing contamination of feed/water supply systems with wild animal excrement

Disinfection of a vehicle at entrance to a farm

Laboratory capacity

- **National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH)** is the national reference laboratory for animal health that provides ‘confirmatory diagnosis’.
- NIAH, together with NVAL, is recognised as a WOAH Collaborating Centre for the ‘Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases and Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia’.
- Each of 117 **Livestock Hygiene Service Centres** has a laboratory; 50 of these laboratories are designated for advanced diagnosis.
- Livestock Hygiene Service Centres send samples to NIAH for confirmation if necessary.

Location of Livestock Hygiene Service Centres and National Institute of Animal Health



Challenge and possible solutions

Vaccination

Preventive vaccination is not allowed. Emergency vaccination is allowed, but never implemented.

Because ….

- Available vaccines cannot prevent infection completely.
- If vaccinated birds are infected with HPAI, they exhibits no obvious clinical signs and shed virus even at a low level. That may cause the spread of infection and virus mutation.
- Route of administration of available vaccines is only injection (intramuscular or subcutaneous) and is not appropriate for mass vaccination.

- Vaccine-induced immunity is not lifelong.

- New effective preventive vaccines has been made available.
- It is important to decide on vaccination based on accurate information and experts' views.

Proposal for future activities

- Improve avian influenza risk-based surveillance systems for domestic and wild animals
- Report disease events and provide complete and timely data to WOAH through WAHIS
- Enhance laboratory diagnostic capabilities to rapidly detect circulating avian influenza viruses and share virological information for the prevention and rapid control of HPAI infections

Thank you

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