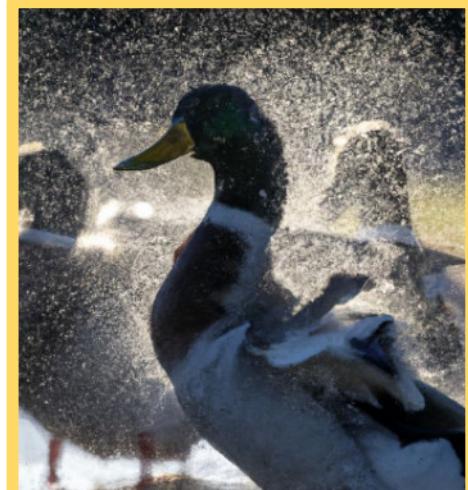


“Free with vaccination” status: utopia or concrete possibility?

Jean-Luc GUERIN

National Veterinary College of Toulouse - ENVT
UMR IHAP – *Chair for Poultry Biosecurity & Health*

Strasbourg – November 27, 2025



Vaccination en masse contre la grippe aviaire

La France est le premier pays à lancer une campagne aussi vaste, visant à immuniser 64 millions de canards

C'est peut-être un tournant dans la gestion en France de l'épidémie d'influenza aviaire, qui entraîne depuis des années une mortalité importante parmi les oiseaux sauvages et les volailles domestiques. Lundi 2 octobre, à partir de 8 heures, les 3500 canetons de l'exploitation d'Eric Dumas à Hortsarrieu, dans les Landes, seront les premiers volatiles à bénéficier d'une campagne de vaccination massive, visant à immuniser des dizaines de millions de canards et à protéger d'autres espèces contre le virus de la grippe aviaire. Pour marquer ce moment, le ministre de l'Agriculture, Marc Fesneau, fera le déplacement.

La vaccination vient d'être rendue obligatoire pour tous les élevages français de palmipèdes à partir de 250 animaux. Une procédure en deux temps : une première injection sur des canetons âgés de 10 jours et un rappel à 28 jours. «La première semaine, 650 000 canetons seront vaccinés, dont 524 000 dans le Sud-Ouest», affirme Marie-Pierre Pé, la directrice du Comité interprofessionnel des palmipèdes à foie gras (Cifog).



rant l'automne et l'hiver) et dans certaines zones géographiques. Désormais, on est dans un nouveau schéma, face à un risque diffus à la fois dans le temps et dans l'espace», précise le professeur en pathologie aviaire.

La vaccination apporte néanmoins un soulagement aux éleveurs. M. Dumas : «On voit le bout du tunnel. C'est une étape très importante pour notre filière.» Son exploitation, située dans une zone à forte densité d'élevage, a vu sa production très affectée ces dernières années. De 12 000 canards élevés en 2018, il est tombé à 3 700 en 2022 et devrait remonter à 7 000 cette année. Le Cifog table sur une hausse de la production nationale de 20 % en 2023, après une chute de 35 % un an plus tôt.

Réduire le recours aux abattages
La vaccination devrait également réduire le recours aux abattages massifs. Bien que l'épisode épidémique de mai a conduit à l'abattage d'un million de têtes. Les épidémies successives ont eu un coût important pour l'Etat, qui est venu en soutien aux éleveurs : le montant de l'enveloppe totale pour 2023 n'est pas encore établi, mais 1,2 milliard d'euros ont été

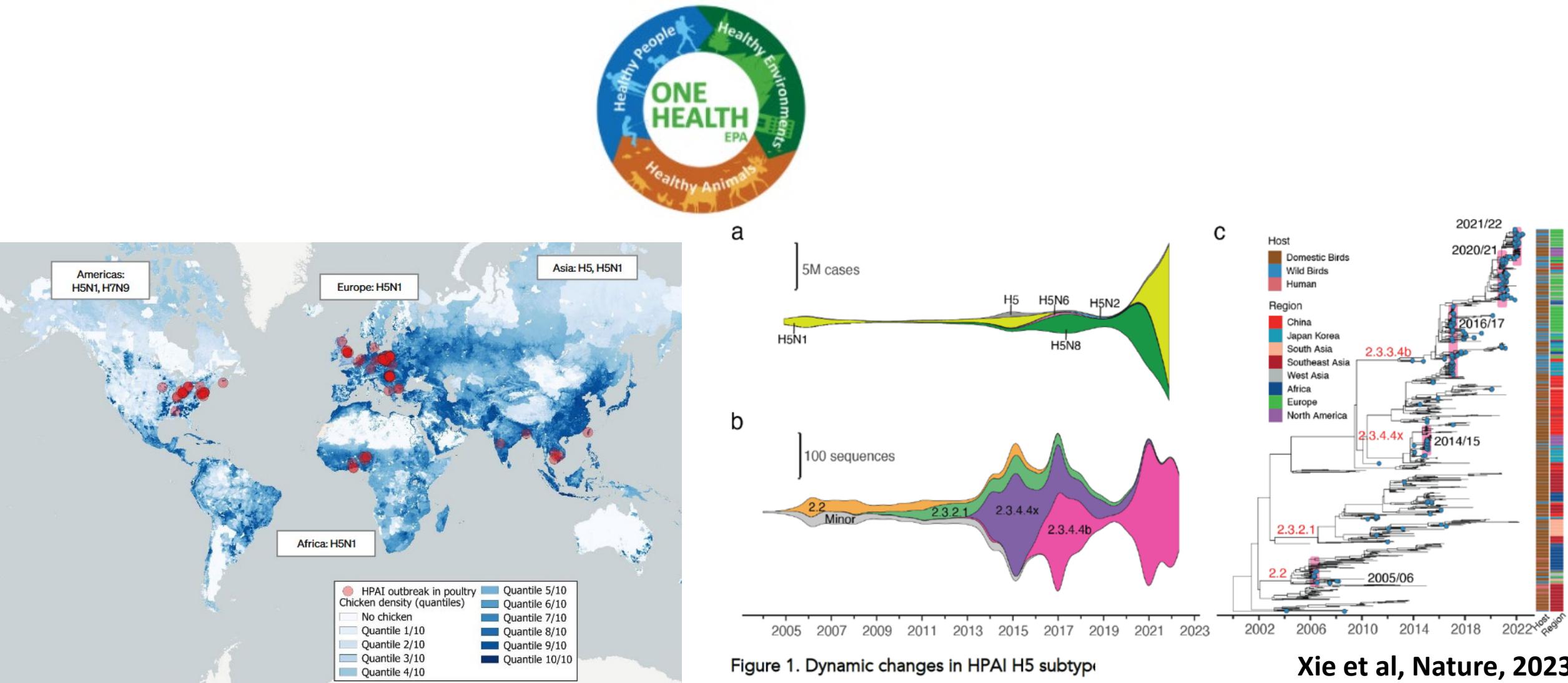


Vaccination de canetons contre le choléra et la grippe aviaires, à Manciet (Gers), le 11 octobre. UGO KNEZ POUR « LE MONDE »

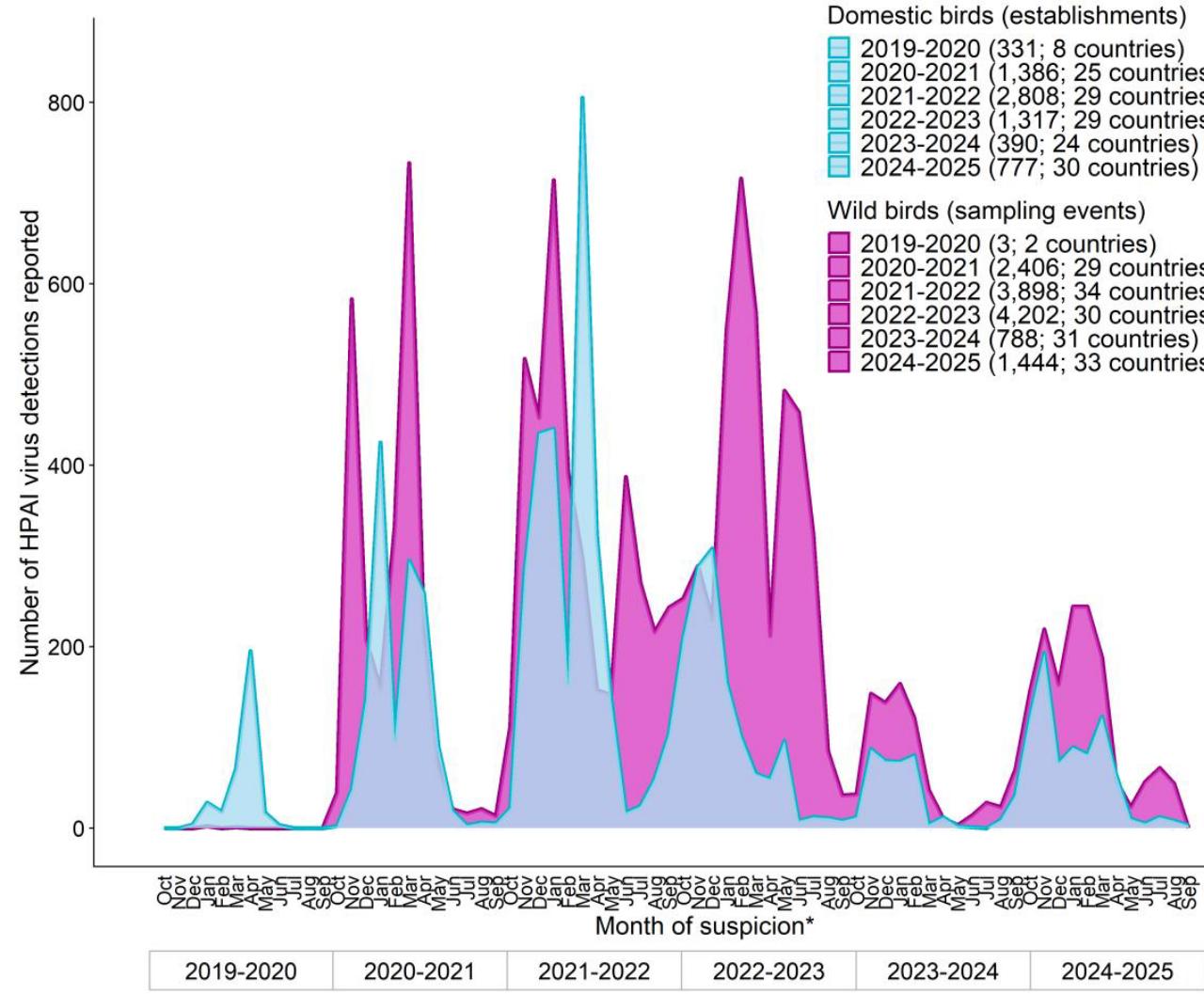
Grippe aviaire : dans le Sud-Ouest, l'espoir de la vaccination

La campagne d'injection des palmipèdes à foie gras apporte une forme de répit aux producteurs touchés par l'influenza aviaire

H5 avian influenza : a global risk for animal and human health



A huge impact in EU, for years and still TODAY

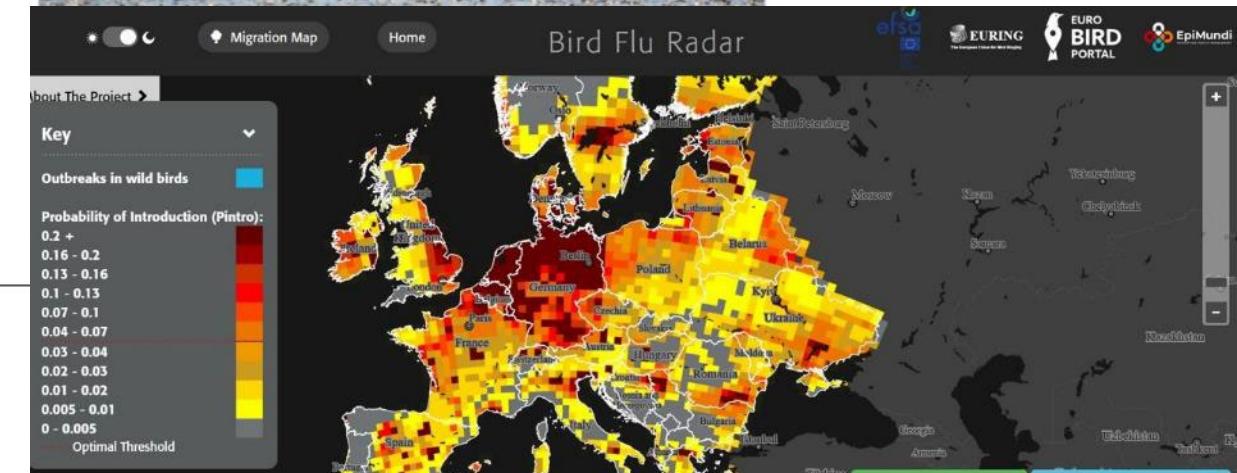


Avian influenza in Europe: enhanced surveillance and strict biosecurity needed as detections surge

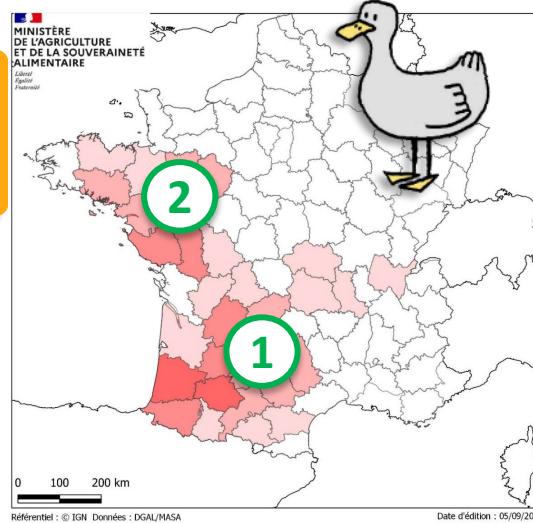
Published: 24 November 2025 | 3 minutes read

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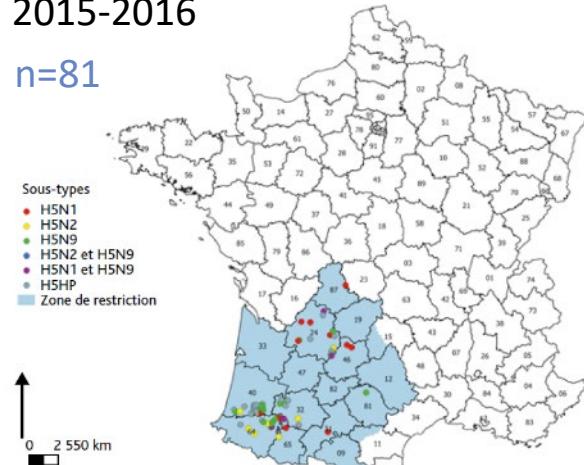


HPAI versus France, 2015-2023



2015-2016

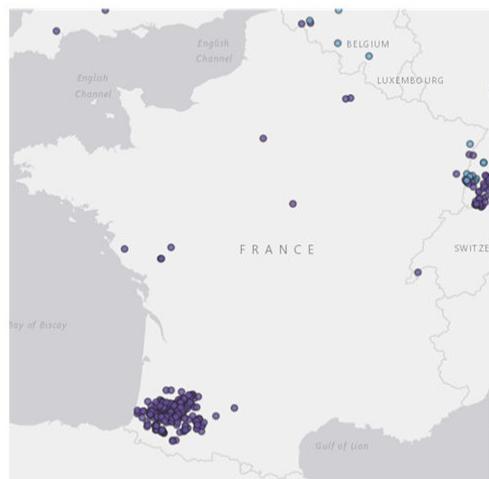
n=81



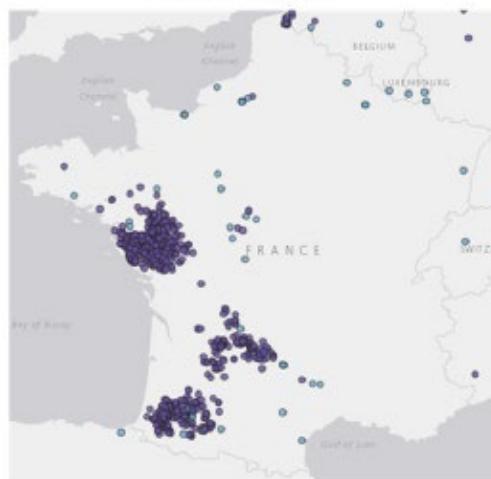
2016–2017 n=488



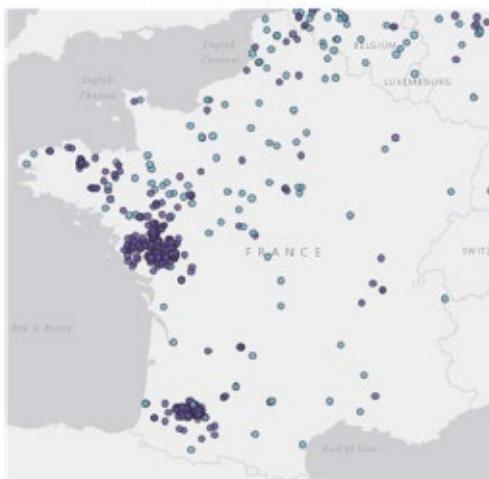
2020–2021 n=492



2021–2022 n=1,377



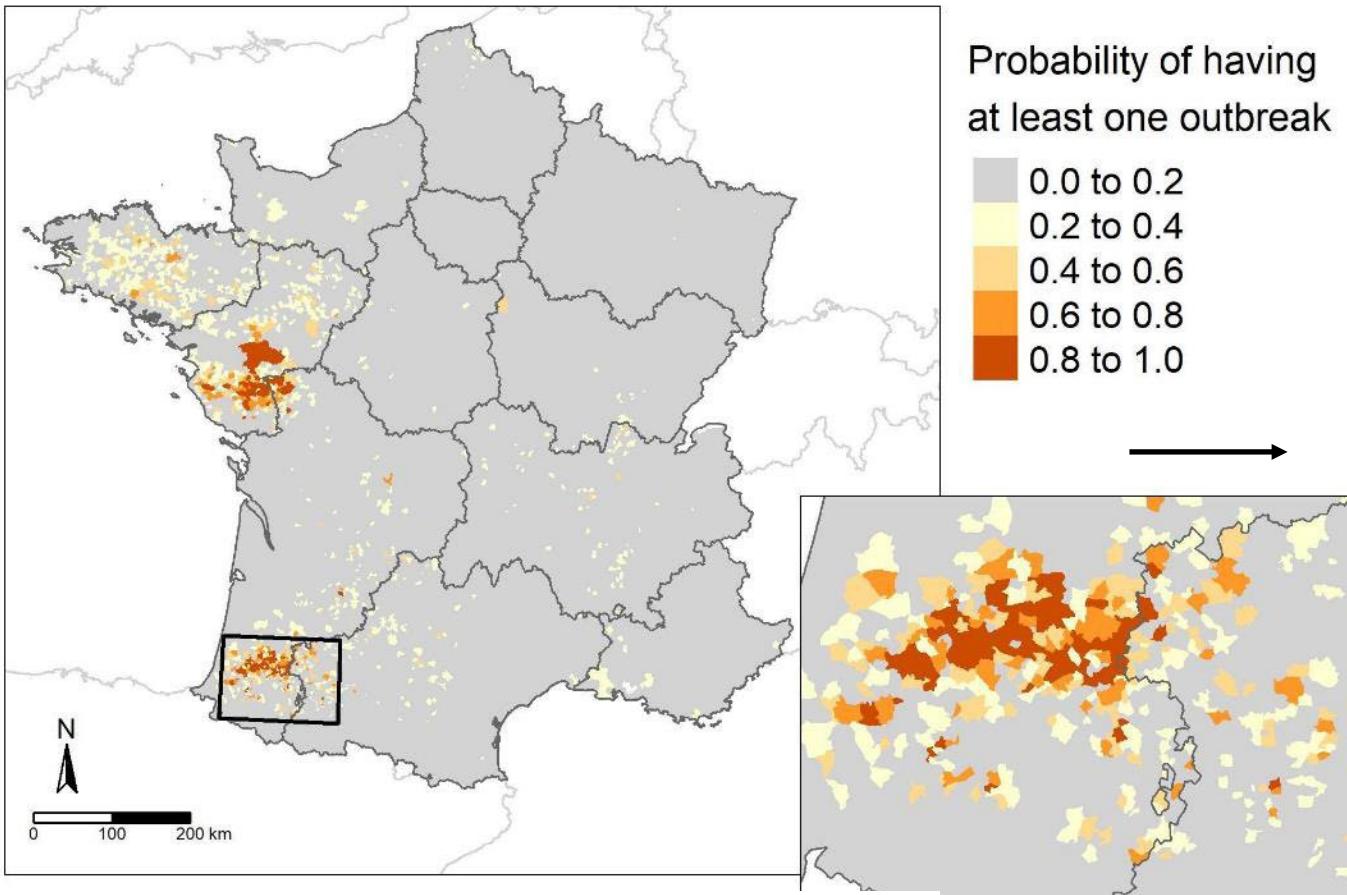
2022–2023 n=402



- 5 major epidemics
- Breeder stock affected
- **Role of duck farms**
- Farm density
- **« Classical » culling strategy is not efficient**

Bauzile et al, 2023
Guinat et al, 2020
Le Bouquin et al, 2016
Scoizec et al, 2024

The risk map of HPAI in France is shaped by duck farms density

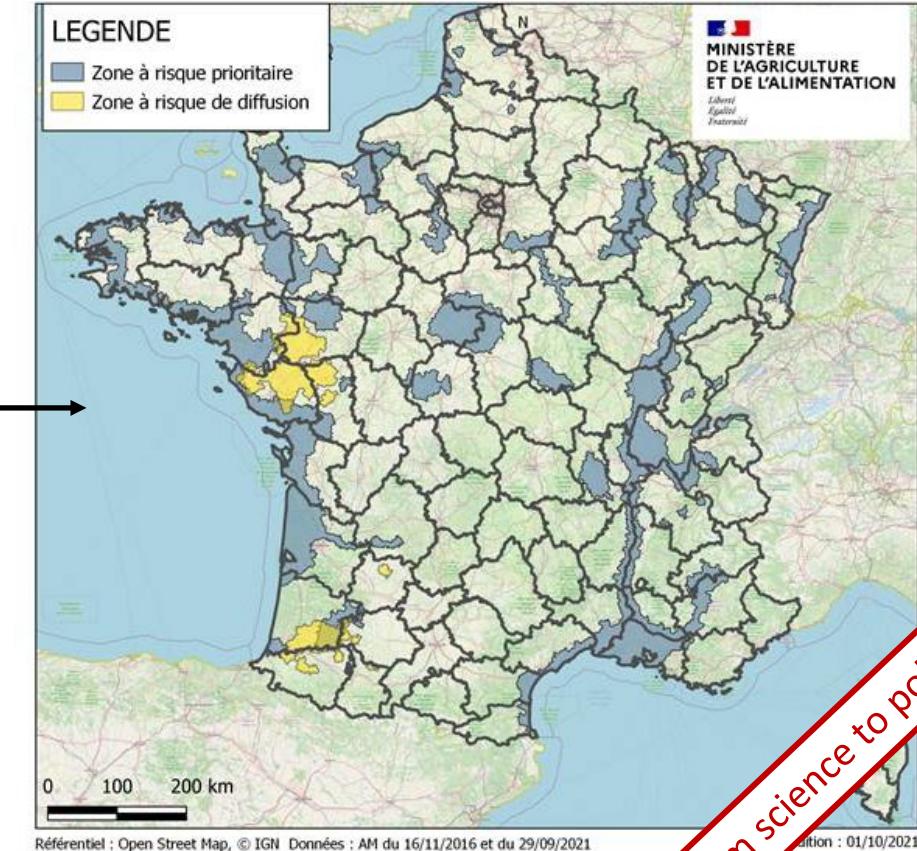


Duck production systems and highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 in France, 2016–2017

C. Guinat J. Artois, A. Bronner, J. L. Guérin, M. Gilbert & M. C. Paul

Scientific Reports **9**, Article number: 6177 (2019) | Cite this article

IAHP : zones à risque particulier (ZRP) et à risque de diffusion (ZRD) en France



From science to policy



Our responses to outbreaks show limitations

- **Biosecurity**
 - Is and will remain a basics and a MUST in all sanitary strategy
 - But showed limited efficacy against avian influenza
- **Surveillance**
 - Objective: early detection of outbreaks
 - Molecular tools: detection  genomic surveillance
 - Surveillance of vaccinated flocks more challenging (?)
- **Depopulation + restriction zones in case of outbreaks**
 - Outbreaks: « culling as fast as possible » + « Preventive culling »
 - Stop movements + testing
 - Issues : animal + farmer welfare, societal acceptability, capacities for culling and disposal of carcasses in case of large epizootics, ...



SO...why not include vaccination in our toolbox?

PROS

- PROTECT birds from disease & mortality
- REDUCE viral excretion and sensitivity of birds to infection
- REDUCE culling and placement restriction
- REDUCE exposure of mammals (humans) to HPAIV



CONS

- RISK of silent viral circulation in vaccinated flocks
- RESTRICTION of international trade
- COST of vaccination and SURVEILLANCE
- REDUCE compliance with biosecurity measures by farmers

Restrictions on international trade?

Policy brief

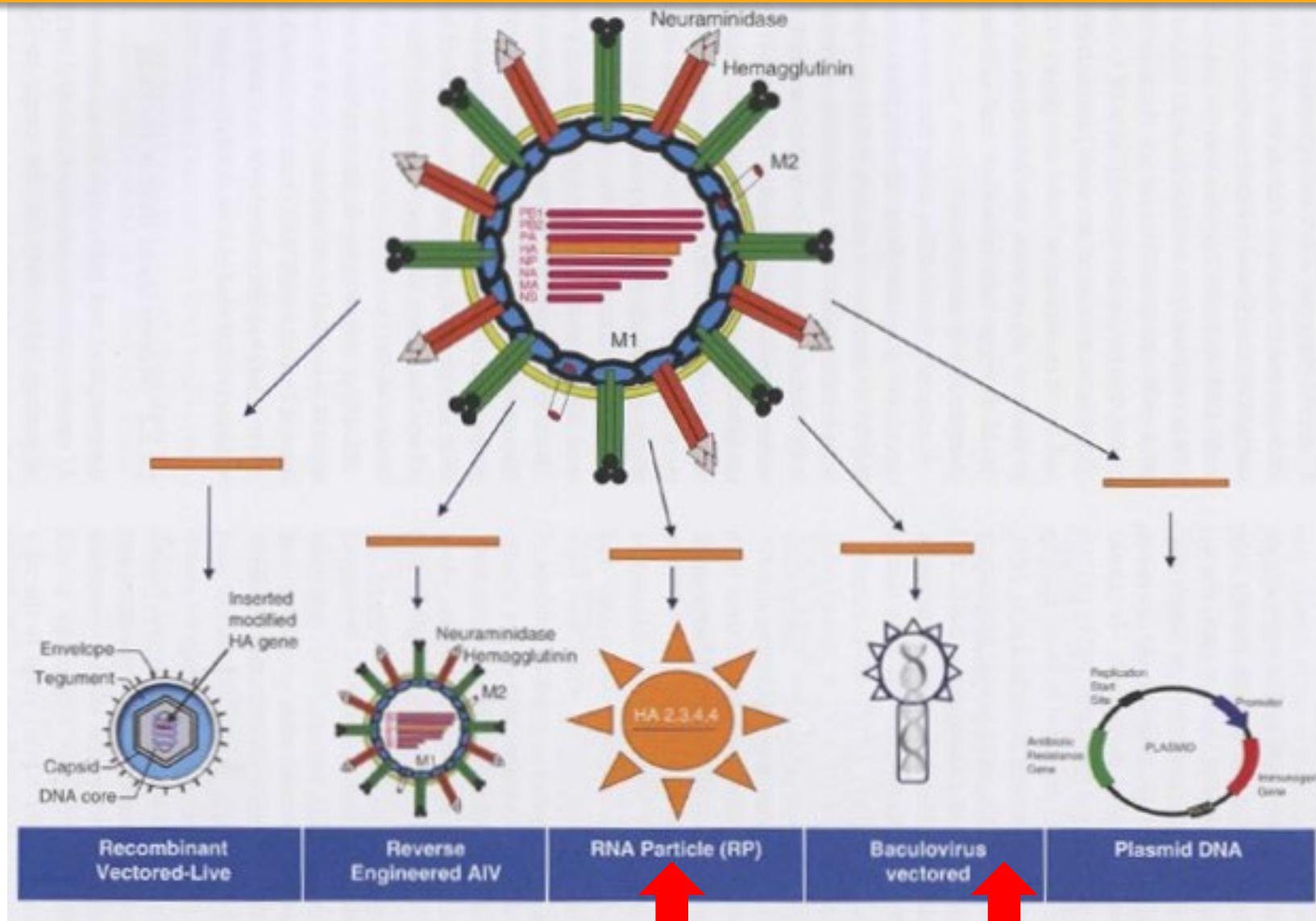
Avian influenza vaccination: why it should not be a barrier to safe trade

Executive summary

Since 2005, avian influenza has had a staggering toll, with over 500 million birds lost to the disease worldwide [1]. Its devastating impact extends beyond domestic and wild birds, threatening livelihoods, food security and public health. The recent shift in the disease's ecology and epidemiology has heightened global concern as it has spread to new geographical regions. It has also caused unusual die-offs in wild birds and led to an alarming increase in mammalian cases. The rapidly evolving nature of avian influenza and **changes in its patterns of spread** [2] require a review of existing prevention and control strategies. To effectively contain the disease, protect the economic sustainability of the poultry sector and reduce potential pandemic risks, all available tools must be reconsidered – including vaccination.



A wide range of veterinary vaccines are available today



HPAI Vaccination in France since 1st October, 2023

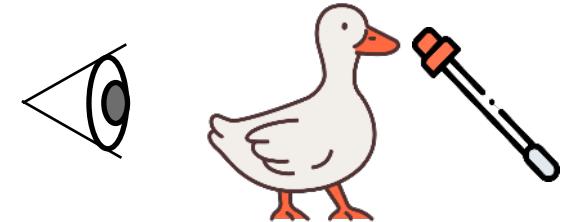
Vaccine & company	Species	Vaccination at 1 day of age	DIVA ELISA NP serology
Volvac BEST AI+ND BOERHINGER INGELHEIM	Pekin ducks,	Yes	Possible
	Mule ducks,		
	Muscovy ducks	Yes	
Vaccin CEVA Respons H5 Ceva Santé Animale	Mule ducks,	Yes	Possible
	Pekin ducks,		
	Muscovy ducks		



Vaccination ➡

- Mandatory for all ducks at the production level
- Optional for breeder ducks
- Prohibited for all other poultry

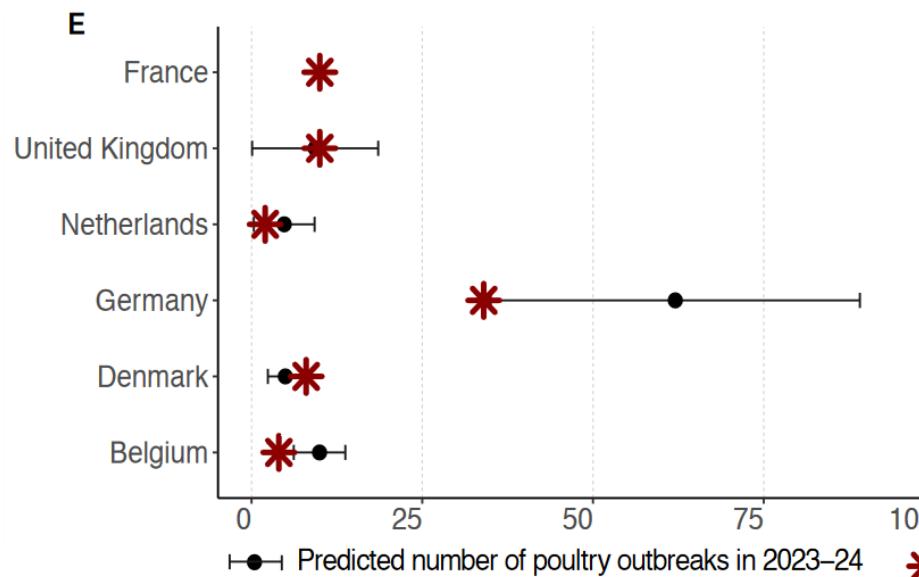
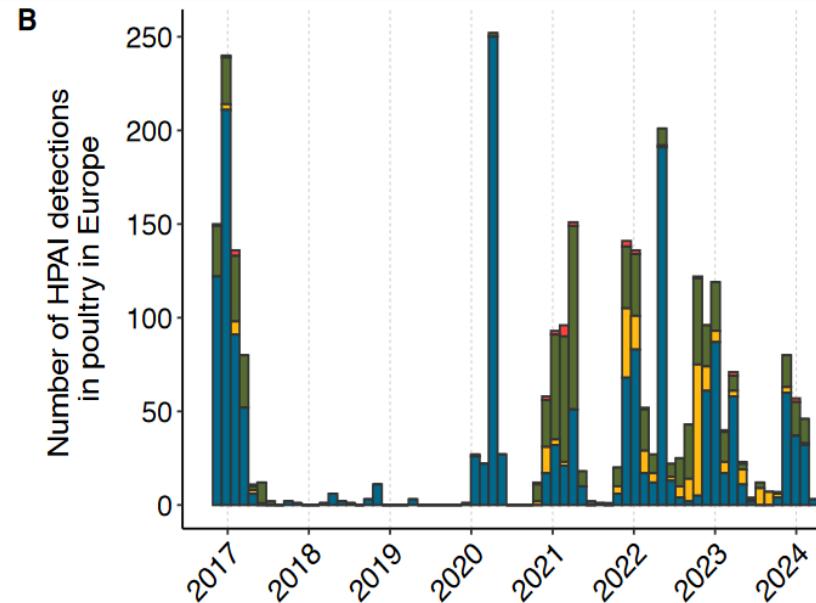
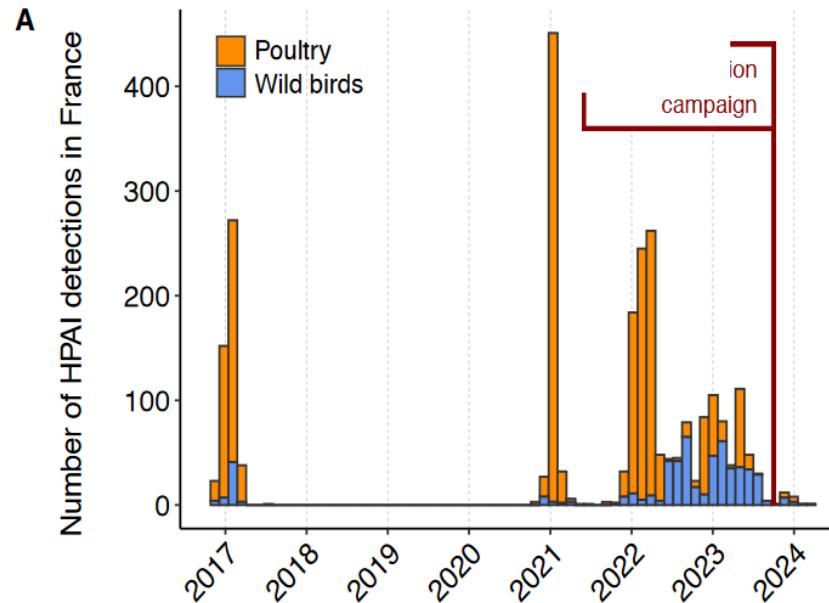
Post-vaccination surveillance is critically important



EU Delegate act – HPAI vaccination surveillance

Conditions	Enhanced passive surveillance	Active surveillance	Serological survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign
Where?	Epidemiological Unit	Epidemiological Unit	Batch
By who?	Breeder or Technician	Official veterinarian	Official veterinarian
Frequency?	Weekly	Every 30 days: clinical visit + virological analysis	At the end of the batch: serological analysis
How?	Swabs (tracheal or oropharyngeal swabs) on 5 cadavers	Swabs on 60 vaccinated ducks (tracheal or oropharyngeal swabs)	Blood collection from 20 animals
Analysis?	RT-PCR gene M virology If the result was positive → screening H5/H7	RT-PCR gene M virology (If the result was positive → screening H5/H7)	ELISA NP serology
Laboratory type?	Recognised laboratory	Approved laboratory	Approved laboratory

The FR Vaccination plan showed very positive effects in the 1st year of vaccination, but this evaluation must be carefully updated



Promising effects of duck vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza, France 2023-24

Claire Guinat¹, Lisa Fourtune¹, Sébastien Lambert¹, Eva Martin¹, Guillaume Gerbier², Andrea Jimenez Pellicer², Jean-Luc Guérin¹, Timothée Vergne¹

Take-home messages

- No taboo ! vaccination *may be part of the solution* (with biosecurity and surveillance) if properly applied
- **Major improvements in both vaccine and diagnostics technologies** offer now smart solutions for efficient vaccination AND monitoring of vaccinated flocks
- Vaccines and vaccination programs should be tested to certify the VIRAL protection (not only against clinical signs!)
- Surveillance is and will remain THE key and the most expensive part of a vaccination program: there's a need for alternative, smart, unexpensive tools
- Modeling the infection and the impact of vaccination, including the economic impact, at the farm and regional scales, may be helpful to define a strategy
- There's need for research to improve vaccines, vaccination strategy and surveillance tools
- **This is a never-ending story ! Adaptation of our response to viral changes will remain our daily challenge**

Thank you for your attention !

