

Avian Influenza (AI): U.S. International Efforts



Dr. Eric Hoffman, Associate Deputy Administrator,
International Services
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
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Protecting American Agriculture



Points to Remember

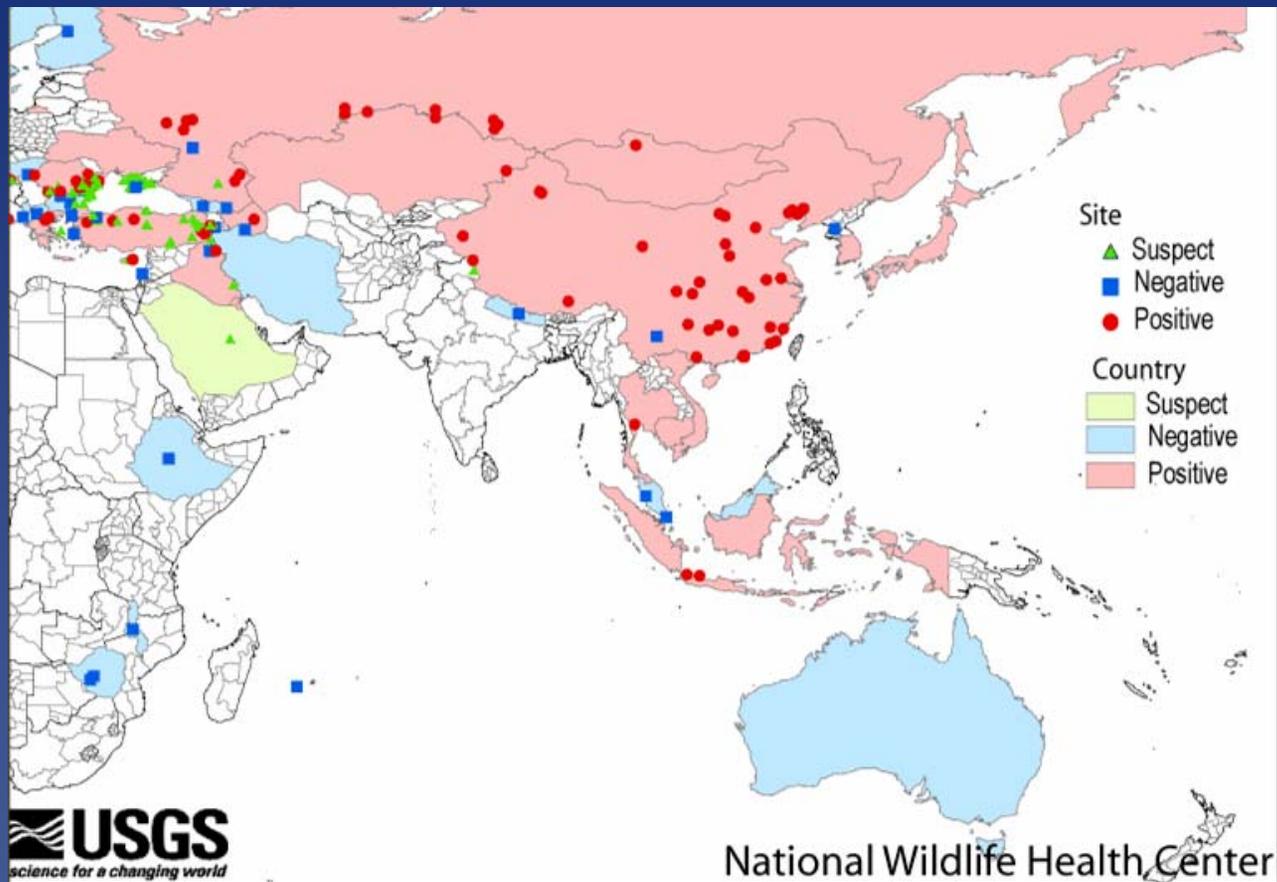
- AI is first and foremost an animal disease.
- The best way to prevent an outbreak starts with eliminating the virus at its source.
- Fighting AI is an international effort.



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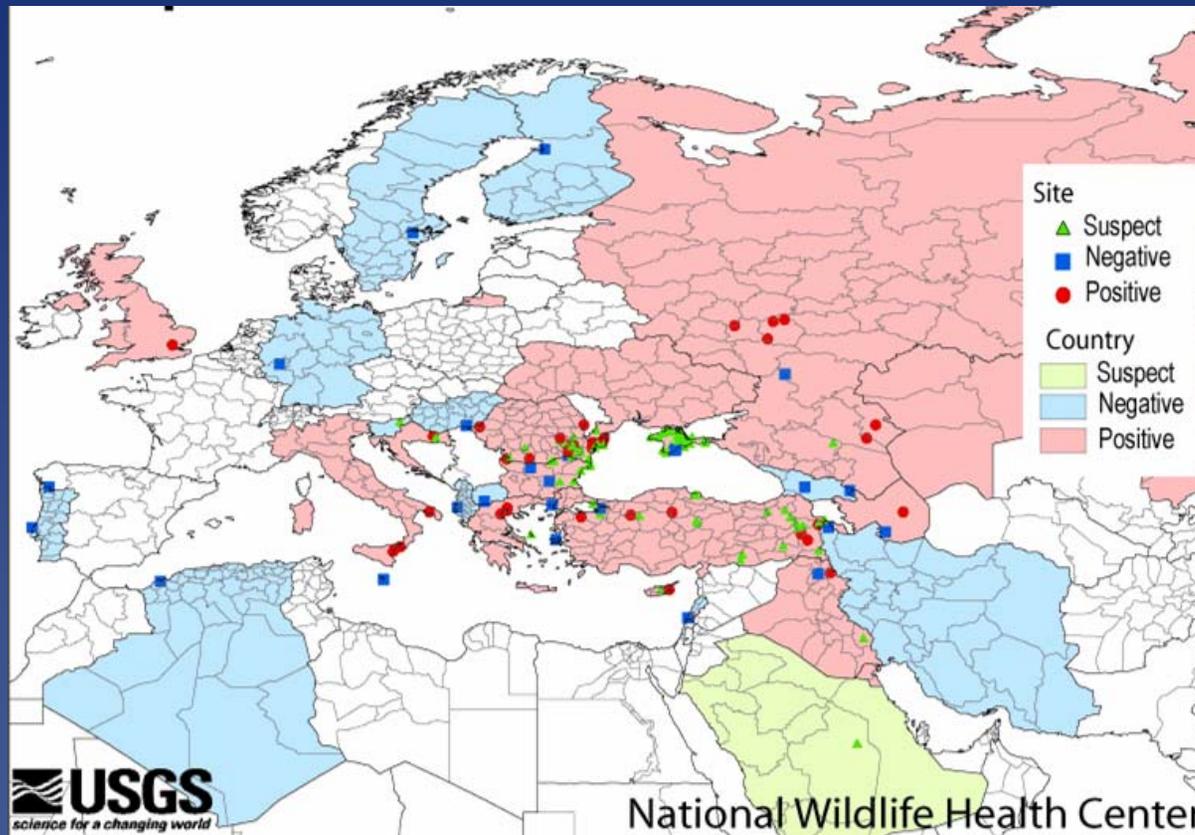
Asian Outbreak as of 2/13/06



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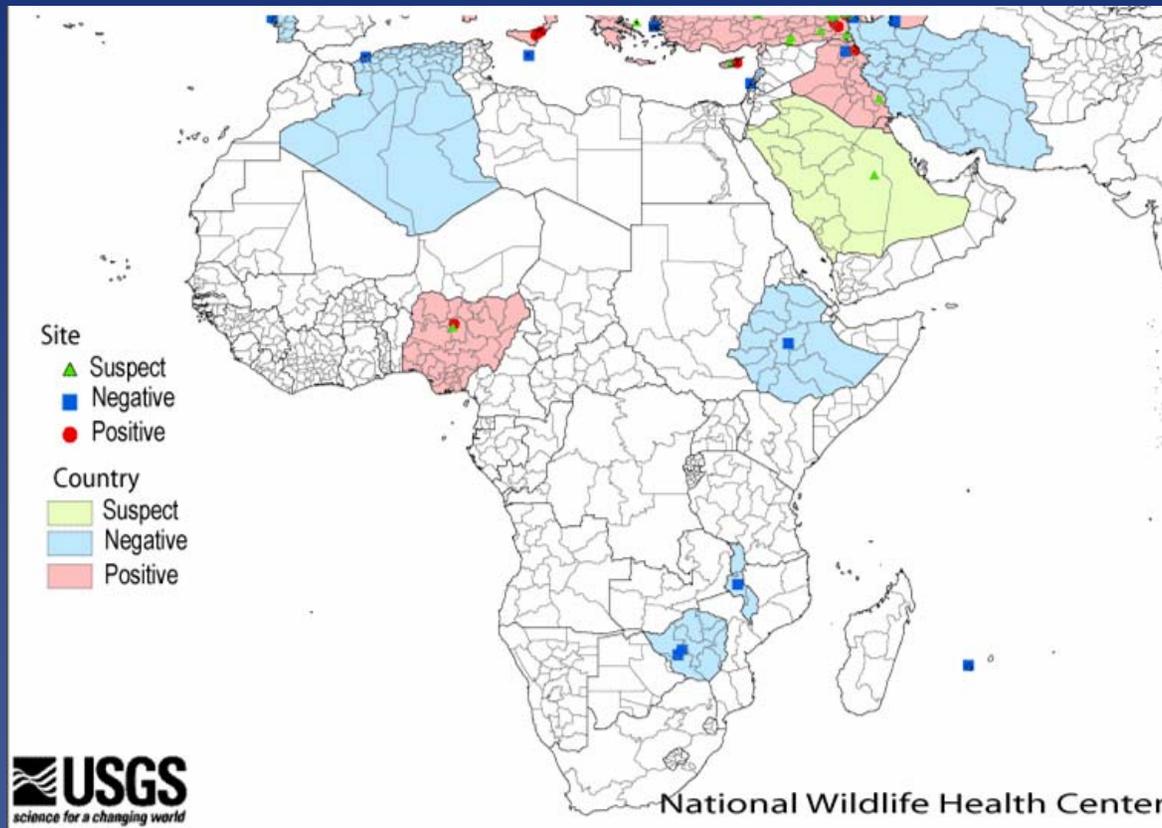
European Outbreak as of 2/13/06



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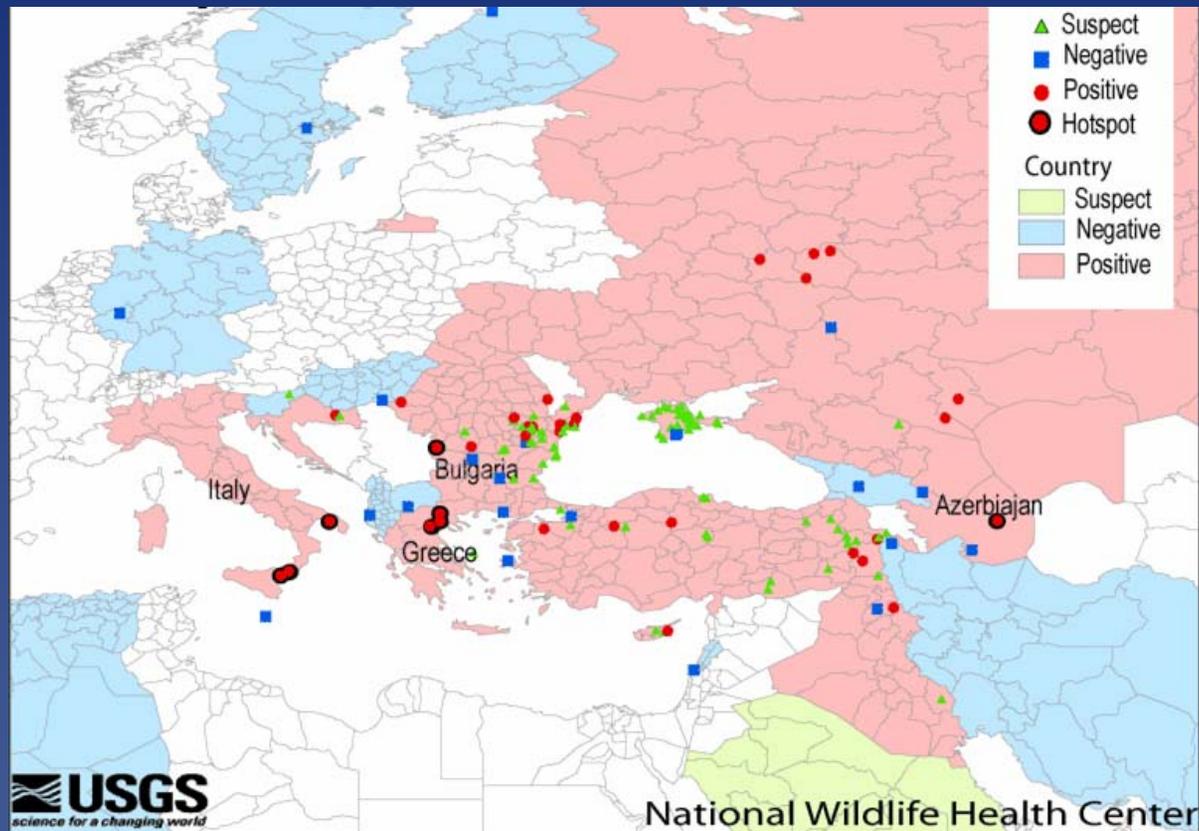
African Outbreak as of 2/12/06



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Hot Spots as of 2/13/06



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U.S. Commitment to Global AI Efforts

- The Federal Government is actively engaged in global AI eradication efforts.
- \$25 million in supplemental funds has been appropriated for AI eradication in Asia
- President's FY 2007 budget includes funds to improve overseas preparedness and response
- USDA works internationally with the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development



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USDA International AI Objectives:

- Facilitate international partnerships to prevent, address, and contain HPAI.
- Collaborate on research, analysis of information, and promotion of biosecurity technologies to minimize risks of transmission.
- Promote strategies to improve transparency and timeliness in case reporting.
- Develop trade and economic contingency plans.



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USDA Response in Asia



Examples include:

- Training, technical assistance, and scientific capacity-building efforts in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia
- HPAI virus research and vaccine effectiveness
- HPAI surveillance in domestic and wild birds
- Plans to station personnel in 6 Southeast Asian countries



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Other International Efforts

Examples:

- Emergency response teams sent to Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia
- Consultant sent to Ukraine, Cambodia
- Technical experts, rapid test equipment sent to Romania



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USDA International Training Efforts

- “Train-the-trainer” activities
- In-country consultancy
 - Live bird market management workshops
 - Domestic poultry surveillance pilot programs
- International Workshops at USDA’s National Veterinary Services Laboratories



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Long-Term Strategy: A New Proposal

- A coordinated, international approach
- To be implemented through
 - The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)
 - The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)



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Premises of Proposed Strategy



- HPAI pathogen levels must be reduced at source—in birds
- A dual approach is needed:
 - Eradicate disease
 - Improve animal health infrastructure
- Sustainable change requires affected countries to elevate priority of animal health services
- Eliminating disease and strengthening infrastructure requires coordination + definition of leadership and support functions



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Plan Components

- Leadership under OIE and FAO
- Consistent Assessment of Animal Health Services Capacity + H5N1 Eradication and Control Plans
- Establishment of World Bank Trust Fund



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Phases of Participation



- Meeting with officials of affected country to explain methodology, approach, opportunities, obligations
- Implementation of Assessments
- Periodic re-assessments and reporting on progress



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Implementation Steps

- Evaluation using standardized methodology
- Carefully planned attempts to improve animal health services capacity
- Prioritized list of needs
- Country-by- country response



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Benefits of Coordinated International Approach

- Strengthened international partnerships, laying foundation for international animal health infrastructure
- Resources and infrastructure will be established to deal with future pandemic threats



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Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
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Questions?



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