

Taiwan reports new outbreak of bird flu

Taiwan has confirmed a new outbreak of bird flu at two poultry farms and culled more than 14,000 birds to prevent further infection, according to the local animal inspection authority.

Ducks at a farm in Pingdong county were confirmed with the H5N2 virus and more than 6,000 were culled.

A chicken farm in Tainan city also reported outbreak of an H5-type virus on Saturday, and more than 8,000 chicken were slaughtered.

Taiwan is a common destination for migrating birds. Its farms have reported more than 15 avian flu cases this year, including cases related to the highly pathogenic H5N6 virus.

The general bird flu situation is "under steady control" despite sporadic infections, the animal inspection authority said.

It warned farms to strengthen quarantine and sanitation work and report any unusual death of poultry. Those who report infections will get compensation for culled poultry, while cover-ups will lead to hefty fines.