

Mexico kills 2.5 million poultry to contain bird flu

July 11 2012

Officials have slain 2.5 million birds at poultry farms in western Mexico over the past three weeks in an attempt to contain a bird flu outbreak, the agriculture ministry said Tuesday.

The virus responsible for Mexico's current [bird flu outbreak](#), H7N3, has occasionally caused human disease in various parts of the world, according to the United Nations, but has not shown itself to be easily transmittable between humans.

Officials said they have visited 148 [poultry farms](#). Of those, bird flu was found in 31 farms, while 34 came up negative and results for the remainder were pending.

Of the 3.4 million affected poultry, "the number of birds that have been sacrificed as a control and eradication measure as of (Monday) is 2.5 million," the ministry said in a statement.

The outbreak was first detected on June 20 in Jalisco state, and the Mexican government declared a national animal health emergency on July 2 in the face of the aggressive epidemic.

After importing one million vaccines from Pakistan, the farming officials said they have developed a seed-based vaccine that they will deliver to four laboratories to produce over 80 million doses initially.

Health officials keep a close watch on such outbreaks since so-called

swine flu broke out in Mexico in 2009. The H1N1 virus spread into a global pandemic that claimed the lives of 17,000 people.

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