



## Suspension of Poultry and Eggs from Malaysia – An Update

Since the suspension of poultry and eggs from Malaysia on 18 August 2004 following the detection of bird flu in the state of Kelantan, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) has been working closely with importers and wholesalers to increase their imports of poultry and eggs from other sources.

### Poultry supply situation

2 There is adequate supply of frozen poultry. Importers have increased their orders of frozen poultry from USA, Brazil and Netherlands. Prices of poultry at the supermarkets have remained relatively stable.

### Egg supply situation

3 Importers have already brought in eggs from New Zealand and Australia in the last few days. Two further consignments are expected to arrive from Australia within the next few days. Egg prices have more than doubled since the suspension.

### Bilateral Cooperation on Control Measures

4 AVA is actively working with Malaysia on how the suspension can be lifted with all the necessary safety measures in place, so as not to compromise public health and animal health.

5 AVA met with Malaysia's Department of Veterinary Services on 26 August 2004 and were apprised of measures taken to eradicate the disease. All poultry on the affected farm has been culled and disinfection in the affected area has been completed on 20 Aug 2004. Hence, if there are no new cases, Malaysia can declare Kelantan to be free from bird flu 21 days<sup>1</sup> after 20 Aug 2004.

---

<sup>1</sup> Under OIE (Office International des Epizooties or World Animal Health Organisation) guidelines, if a country affected by bird flu practises eradication, it may declare the country disease free 6 months after the last affected bird is culled. An affected region within the country can be considered disease free 21 days after the confirmation of the last case (with no new cases reported in that period) and the completion of eradication and disinfection.

# MEDIA RELEASE



## **Suspension of Poultry and Eggs from Malaysia – An Update**

6 AVA has been actively working with Malaysia to put in place stringent control measures to enable resumption of imports of poultry and eggs from non-affected regions in Malaysia in stages. These include Malaysia putting in place:

- a) effective disease control and surveillance programmes,
- b) defined boundaries and legislation to control inter-state movement of poultry and eggs.
- c) stringent inspection and health certification system for each export consignment.

These control measures are in line with international practices.

7 AVA will also continue to inspect the farms that have been approved to export poultry and eggs to Singapore.

### Resumption of poultry and egg imports from Malaysia

8 The excellent cooperation between Singapore and Malaysia has facilitated the early review for the resumption of imports. In the absence of further outbreaks, AVA will review and consider the lifting of suspension of imports when Malaysia declares Kelantan to be free of bird flu and AVA is satisfied that the states exporting poultry and eggs to Singapore are free of the disease and disease prevention and control measures have been put firmly in place. Based on current assessment, this review will be done around the second week of September.

### Poultry and eggs in Singapore are safe for consumption

9 AVA would like to reiterate that the poultry and eggs available in the market are safe for consumption.

**Issued by Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority  
Ministry of National Development  
on 27 August 2004**

\\c\pr04bf27augmalweb

# MEDIA RELEASE