

# 2023

## Annual Report on Animal Infectious Disease Surveillance in 2023

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Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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## Preface

In order to protect Japan's livestock industry and ensure a stable supply of safe livestock products to the public, as well as to export high-quality Japanese livestock products overseas, it is of utmost importance to control and eradicate livestock diseases and prevent their invasion. Historically, Japan's animal infectious disease control and eradication efforts, including those for diseases such as foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza have been conducted in collaboration between producers, industry, and the government.

Regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza, in the 2022 winter season, we experienced the largest outbreak in our history, with 84 cases. In contrast, in the 2023 winter season, only 11 cases were reported, and in June 2024, we self-declared recovery of the free status to the World Organisation for Animal Health. In the 2024 season, a number of HPAI outbreaks were confirmed in the highly dense poultry production area and we are committed to preventing the spread of the disease by re-emphasizing the importance of early reporting and ensuring good animal husbandry and hygiene practices. As for classical swine fever, which occurred in Japan in September 2008 for the first time in 26 years, we are continuing our effort to control outbreaks in domestic pigs. While the classical swine fever outbreak in the wild boar population continues to expand, we are taking thorough measures to prevent the outbreaks in pig farms including vaccination and improving on-farm biosecurity. In November 2024, lumpy skin disease was confirmed for the first time in Japan, which had been alerted to the potential risk of its invasion following outbreaks in neighboring countries. We are doing our best to prevent the spread of the disease by sharing information with the relevant parties, setting up diagnostic capacity, and arranging vaccinations in the vicinity of the affected farms.

Meanwhile, it has been noted that outbreaks of transboundary animal diseases that are not prevalent in Japan, such as foot and mouth disease and African swine fever, continue to occur and spread throughout Asia and Europe. The number of foreigners entering Japan has increased compared to that before the spread of COVID-19, and the risk of the invasion of these diseases has also increased. Therefore, it is crucial to strengthen border control measures and maintain a high level of vigilance in Japan. In light of this, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries has developed an annual surveillance plan to monitor the entry and occurrence of important livestock infectious diseases and conducts disease surveillance in cooperation with prefectural governments. The Annual Report on Livestock Infectious Disease Surveillance in 2023 aims to inform people in Japan and abroad about the current situation of livestock infectious diseases in Japan including information on disease incidence, surveillance results, and other recent topics. We hope this report will be useful to all those involved in livestock health.

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