

General Directorate for Food

HPAI VACCINATION CAMPAIGN 2023-2024 REPORT 1st October 2024 – 30th September 2025

Key figures of the second vaccination campaign (1 October – 30 September) :

VACCINATION :

- Number of vaccinated ducks: **54 569 333** (ducks that received a first dose of the vaccine)
- Number of establishments that reported at least one vaccination: **2 097**

POST-VACCINATION SURVEILLANCE :

- Number of analyses carried out as part of the enhanced passive post-vaccination surveillance (pooling up to 5 samples): **36 985**
- Number of analyses carried out as part of the active post-vaccination surveillance (pooling of 5 samples): **173 407**
- Two positive HPAI virological results were detected through the active post-vaccination surveillance during this period.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION ASSESSMENT DURING THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN :

- Only 14 outbreaks were confirmed, including 11 outbreaks in commercial farms and 3 outbreaks in farms with captive birds.
- Among the 11 outbreaks that occurred in commercial farms, 4 were identified in vaccinated duck farms.

INTRODUCTION

Vaccination is regulated in the European Union by Article 46 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of March 9, 2016, concerning transmissible animal diseases ("Animal Health Legislation"), which defines in point 2 the criteria for the use of veterinary medicines for the prevention and control of animal diseases.

This article is further developed by a delegated act, Regulation (EU) 2023/361 of November 28, 2022, which sets out the rules applicable to the use of certain veterinary medicines for the prevention and control of listed diseases, including Annex XVIII, which covers HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza).

Concerned with ensuring all necessary conditions for developing a vaccination strategy at the national level, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty announced on December 22, 2022, the launch of an Action Plan aimed at making duck vaccination operational.

The discussion on HPAI vaccination was guided by the following principles:

Objective :

- Vaccination helps slow the spread of the virus and complements other control measures to achieve eradication.

Methods :

- Preventive vaccination is the only feasible option at this stage.
- Vaccination is accompanied by a strict surveillance system.
- The chosen vaccines allow for the implementation of a DIVA strategy.

Conditions

- Biosecurity is the cornerstone of the HPAI control system.
- Once vaccination is required, it must be mandatory, except in specific cases.
- Vaccination does not exempt from the culling of infected farms, even if vaccinated.

The chosen vaccination strategy involves the preventive vaccination of ducks (Muscovy, Mulard, and Pekin) across mainland France, excluding Corsica, for the entire year. This vaccination is mandatory for all commercial production farms holding more than 250 ducks in production.

In addition, a voluntary vaccination strategy is in place to allow the vaccination of breeding ducks whose eggs for hatching and day-old ducklings are exclusively intended for the national market. The vaccination of these breeding ducks is prohibited if their products are intended for intra-EU trade or export to third countries.

Moreover, the implementation of the HPAI vaccination campaign is accompanied by a strict surveillance system in line with the provisions of European regulation, consistent with the recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The objective of post-vaccination surveillance is to allow for low-noise detection of virus circulation, complementing event-based surveillance.

Regulation (EU) 2023/361 requires the implementation of post-vaccination surveillance in all establishments holding vaccinated animals at the level of each epidemiological unit. An epidemiological unit is defined as a farming site comprising one or more buildings.

Regulation (EU) 2023/361 requires the implementation of post-vaccination surveillance composed of :

- Weekly virological surveillance on dead ducks, referred to as enhanced passive post-vaccination surveillance under European regulation;
- Monthly clinical and virological surveillance on live animals, referred to as active post-vaccination surveillance.

A first vaccination campaign was implemented from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. A second vaccination campaign was subsequently carried out using the same strategy from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.

1. ASSESSMENT OF THE 2023-2024 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

1.1. Number of vaccinated animals

Between October 2024 and September 2025, **54 569 333** ducks received their first dose of the vaccine.

Figure 1- Number of ducks that received a first dose of the vaccine by department

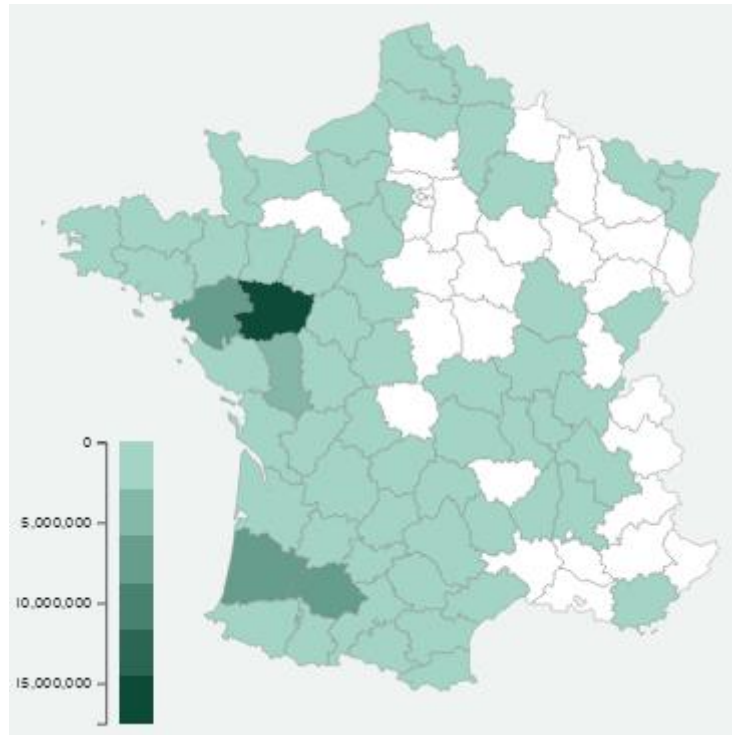
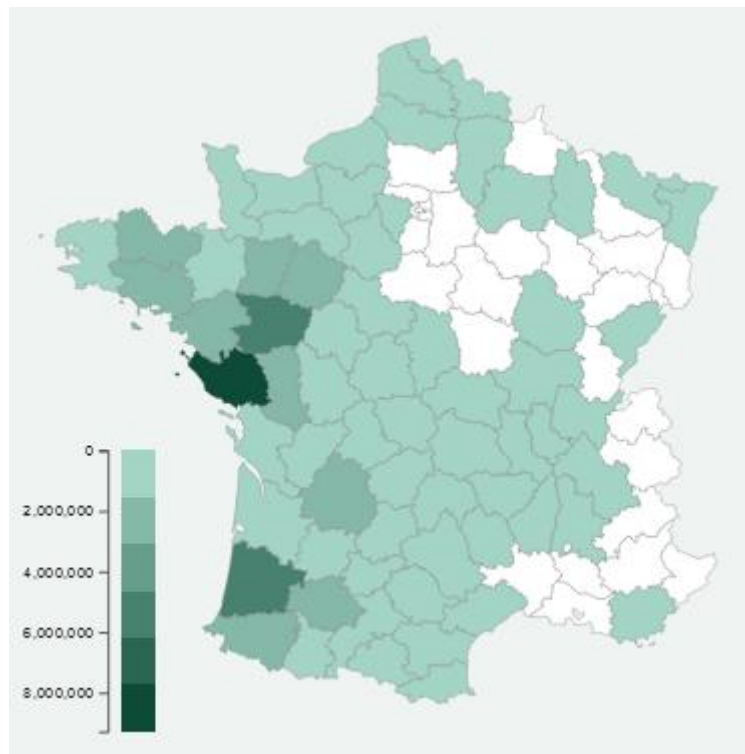


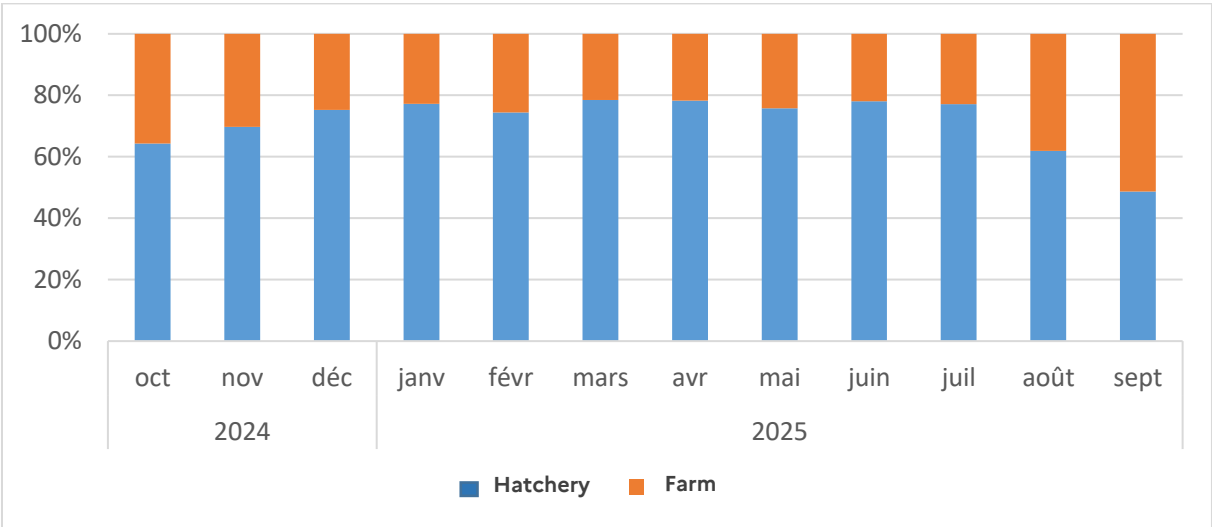
Figure 2- Number of ducks that received a second dose of the vaccine by department



The difference in the distribution by department of the number of ducks that received a first and second dose of the vaccine is explained by the administration of the first dose at the hatchery for some of the ducklings. These ducklings are then delivered to farms where they receive a second dose, and these farms may be located in departments different from those of the hatcheries.

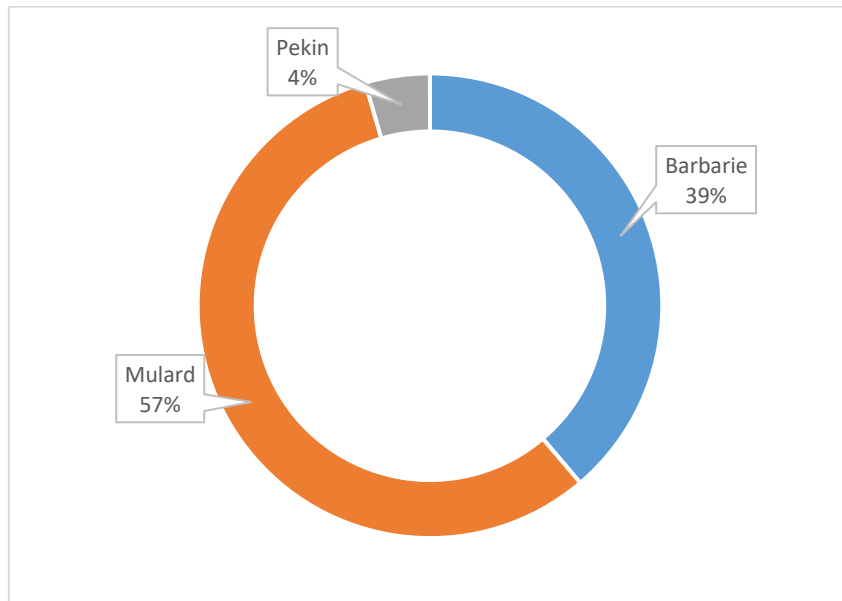
1.2. Deployment of vaccination at the hatchery

Figure 3- Evolution of the distribution of the administration of the first dose of the vaccine at the hatchery and on the farm by month



1.3. Distribution of vaccinated ducks by species

Figure 4- Percentage of vaccinated ducks by species



1.4. Number of vaccinated animals per week

The primary vaccination protocol against IAHP requires a two-dose vaccination for both vaccines that have a temporary authorization for use (ATU) in France.

Figure 5- Number of ducks that received 1 injection of the vaccine, per week

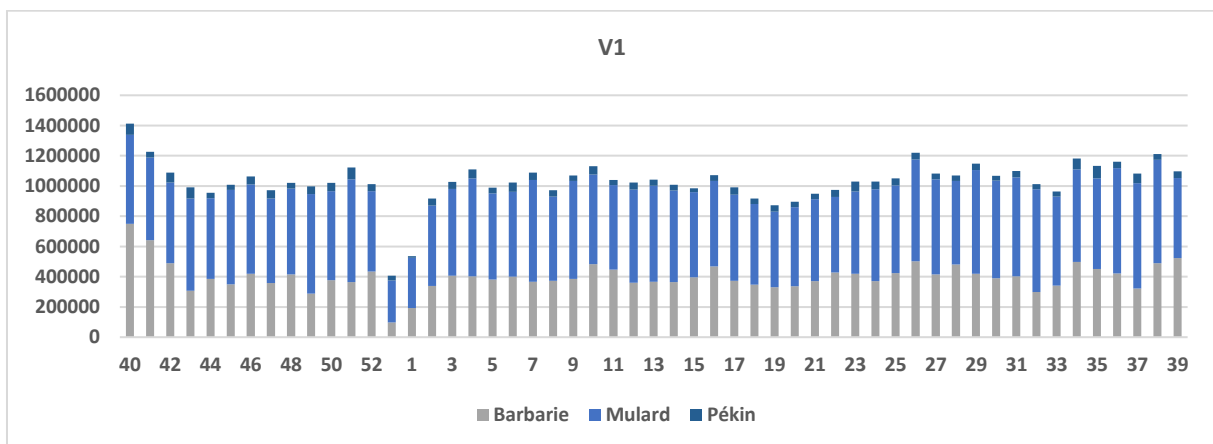
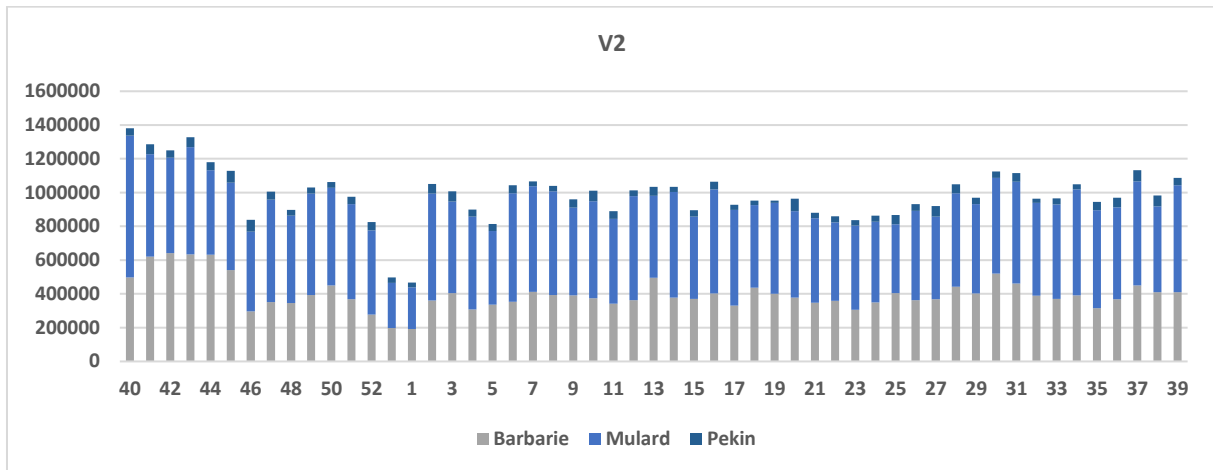


Figure 6- Number of ducks that received 2 injections of the vaccine, per week



In order to optimize the immunity of ducks with a long-life cycle, a booster shot has been implemented for Mulard ducks located in the communes most at risk of disease spread, during the period of highest risk for virus introduction (from December 1, 2024, to March 15, 2025).

The number of Mulard ducks that received a booster shot is **2 144 065**.

1.5. Number of establishments

During the 2024-2025 campaign, a total of 2 097 establishments carried out at least one vaccination intervention for ducks in France (an "establishment" refers to a farm holding animals).

Among these 2 097 establishments, there are 30 hatcheries that carry out the vaccination of day-old ducklings.

2. ASSESSMENT OF POST-VACCINATION SURVEILLANCE FOR THE 2023-2024 CAMPAIGN

Post-vaccination surveillance is implemented based on the provisions of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 and carried out in all establishments holding vaccinated animals at the level of each epidemiological unit. This surveillance complies with WOA standards. An epidemiological unit refers to a farming site consisting of one or more buildings.

2.1. Weekly passive surveillance

Passive post-vaccination surveillance is carried out through sampling from dead or sick vaccinated ducks for virological analysis on a weekly basis.

The samples are collected using tracheal or oropharyngeal swabs from dead animals by the farmer or technician, up to a limit of 5 swabs per week. As of March 2025, it was decided to additionally include asymptomatic animals in the sampling, in the absence of dead or sick animals, until a total of five samples had been collected.

The samples are sent to recognized laboratories for analysis by RT-PCR (pooling up to 5 swabs).

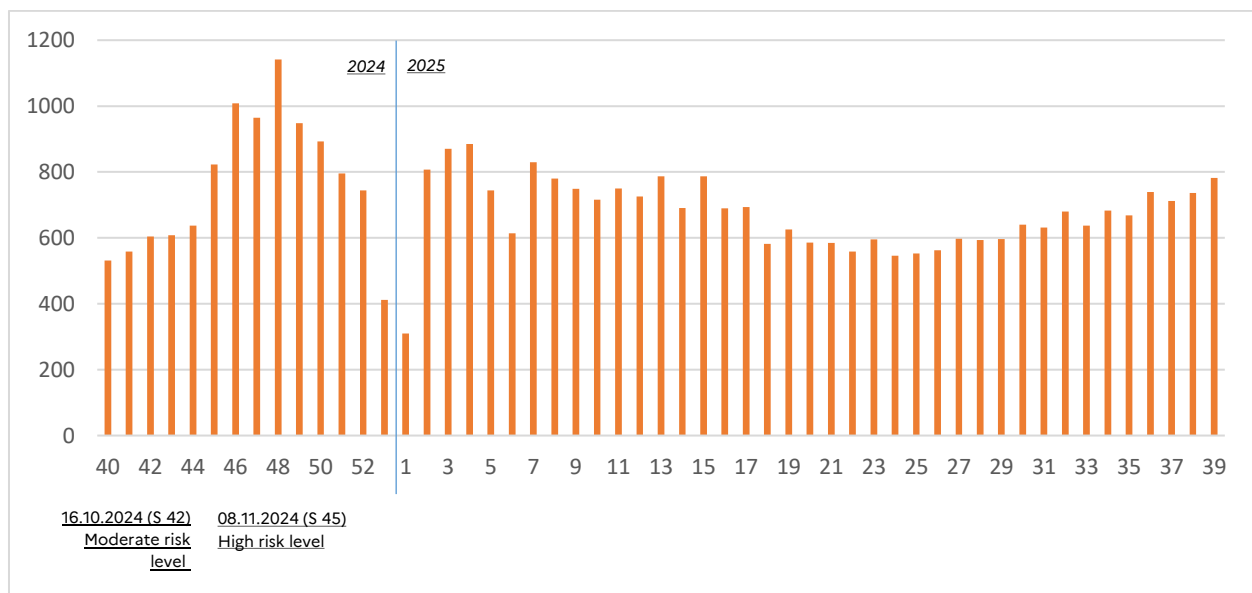
Realisation of the passive surveillance

During the period from October 2024 to September 2025, **36 985 RT-PCR** tests were conducted as part of this surveillance.

Evolution in time of the passive surveillance monitoring

The graph below illustrates the number of analyses carried out per week.

Figure 7-Number of realised passive surveillance analysis per week



At the start of the campaign, an increase in figures from passive post-vaccination surveillance is observed. This rise is explained by the gradual increase in the deployment of batches of ducks undergoing vaccination, in anticipation of growing demand for the end-of-year holiday season.

2.2. Monthly active surveillance

Every establishment holding vaccinated ducks must undergo active surveillance on a monthly basis. This is conducted through a surveillance intervention by the designated veterinarian, which involves a clinical examination, including an assessment of zootechnical criteria, accompanied by the collection of samples using tracheal or oropharyngeal swabs from 60 vaccinated individuals.

The samples are sent to the accredited laboratories for analysis by RT-PCR (pooling of 5 swabs).

Realisation of the post-vaccination active surveillance

During the period from October 2024 to September 2025, **866 638 samples** and **173 407 RT-PCR tests** were carried out.

Suivi dans le temps de la surveillance active

Figures 8 and 9 below represent the number of clinical visits and samples carried out as part of active post-vaccination surveillance by month.

Figure 8- Number of active surveillance clinical visits per month.

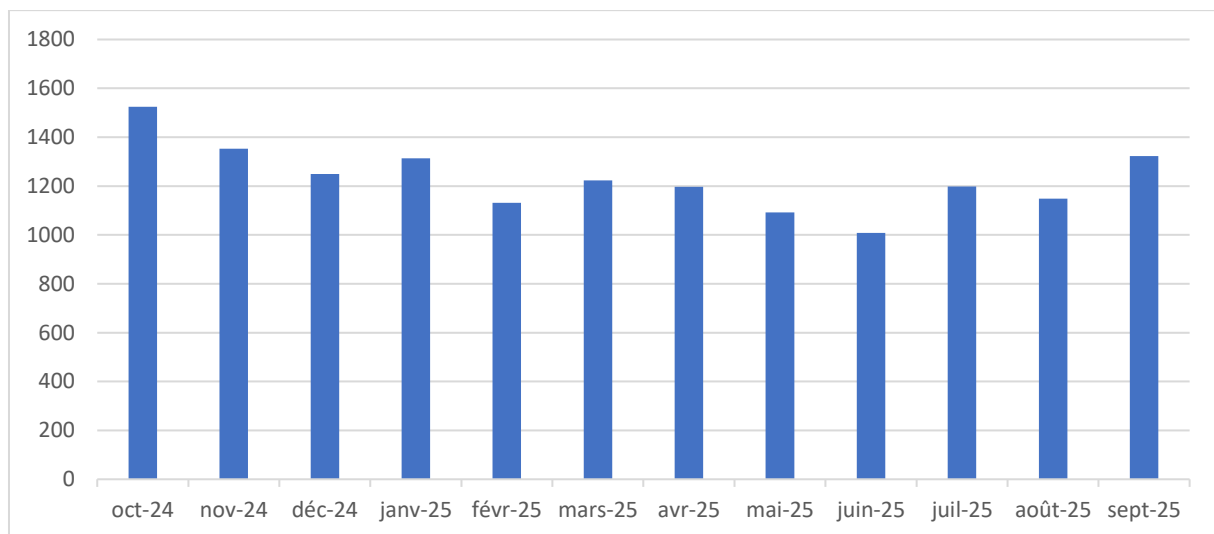


Figure 9- Number of active surveillance samples per month.

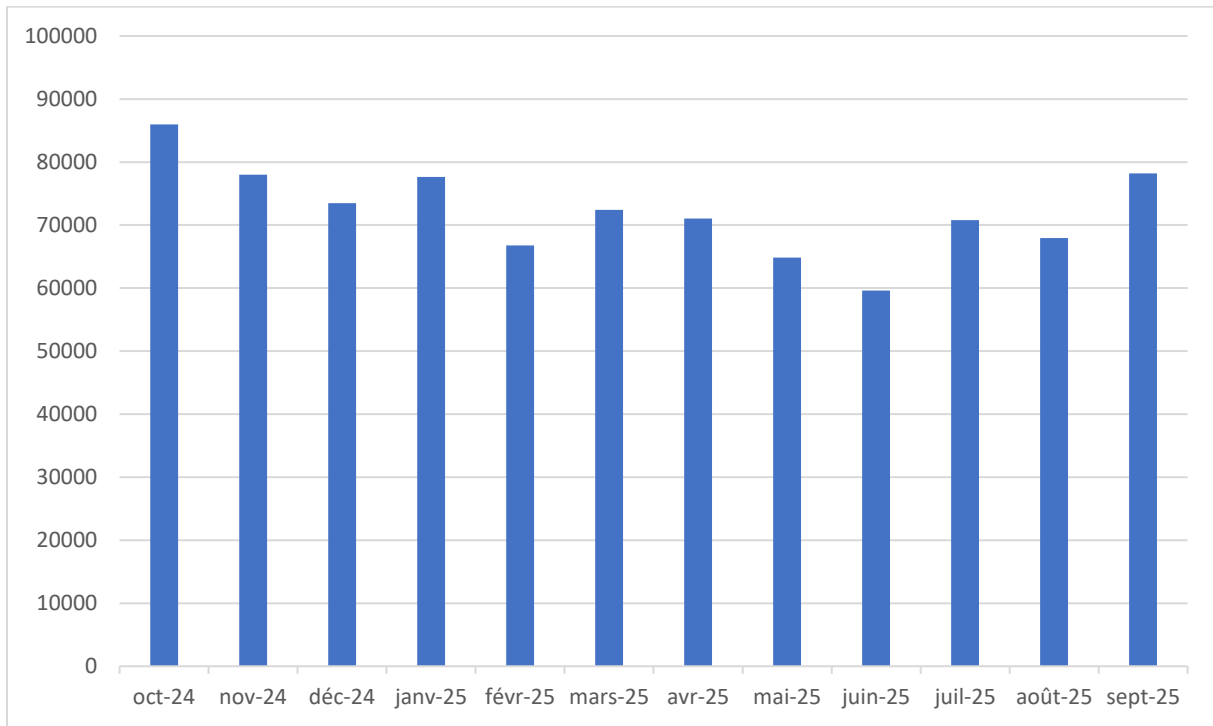
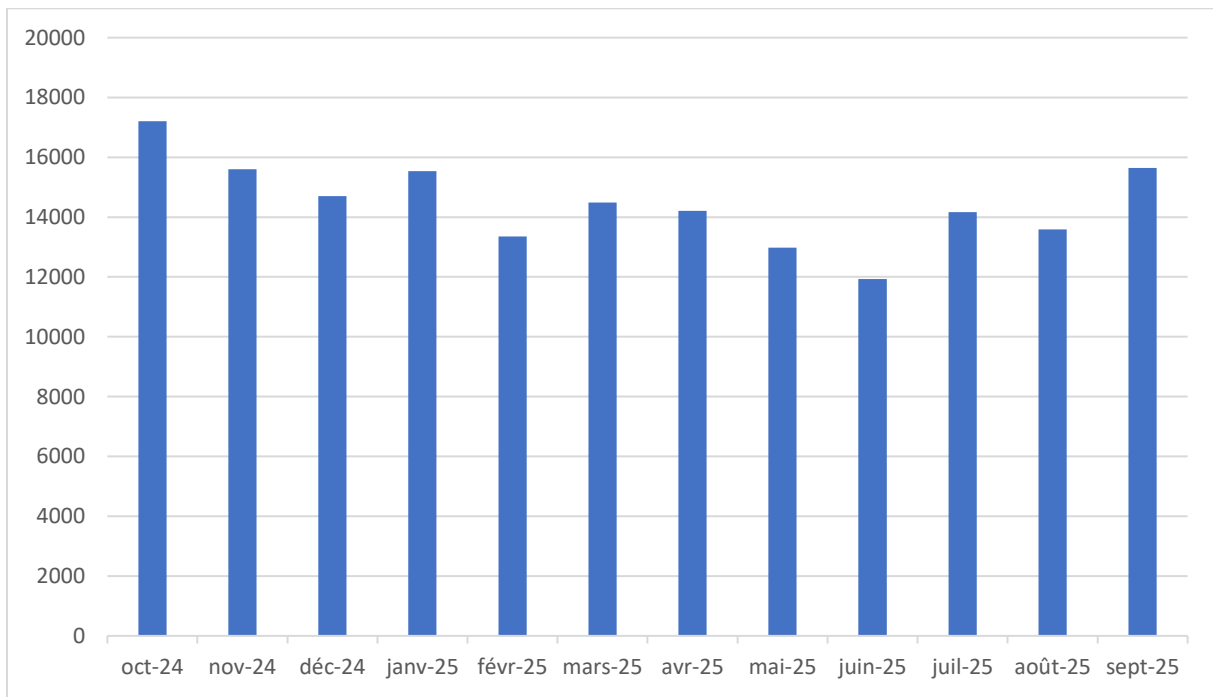


Figure 10- Number of active surveillance laboratory analysis per month.



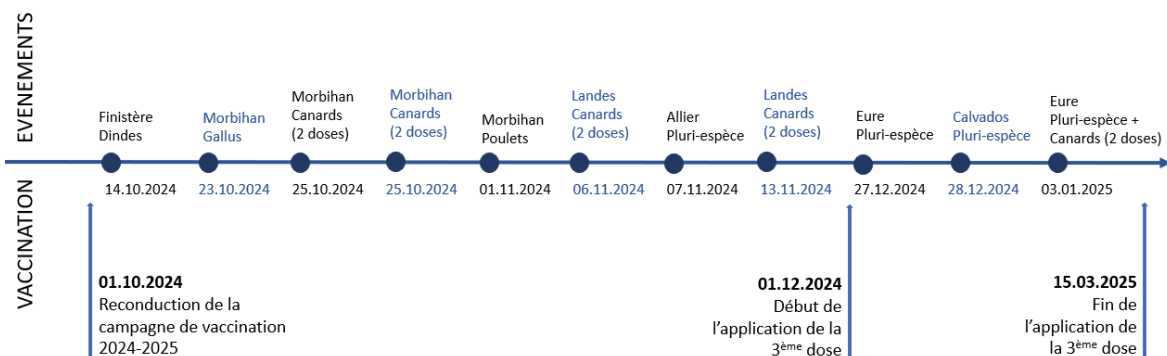
The distribution of duck production, with higher output during the winter months, explains the decrease in visits and sampling in the second half of the vaccination campaign.

1. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2025

The initial epidemiological results for the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 seasons are overall encouraging. Although the epidemiological situation in France has shown reduced circulation of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus in wildlife during southward migrations, a very small number of outbreaks was observed during the two HPAI vaccination campaigns of 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 (compared with the 2022–2023 season, during which more than 400 outbreaks in commercial farms were confirmed):

- Over the period from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, 15 outbreaks were confirmed, including 14 in commercial poultry farms and 1 in a backyard flock. Among these 15 outbreaks, only two were detected in vaccinated duck farms as part of event-based surveillance.
- Over the period from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, 14 outbreaks were confirmed, including 11 in commercial farms and 3 in captive birds. Among the outbreaks in commercial farms, 4 involved vaccinated duck farms that had received two doses of vaccine, and 1 involved a multi-species farm keeping ducks. Two were detected through post-vaccination surveillance.

Figure 11- HPAI outbreaks confirmed throughout the 2024-2025 campaign




From October 1, 2025, the vaccination campaign was renewed following the same strategy.

For more information on the 2025–2026 vaccination campaign.

Consult the official HPAI vaccination plan:

<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/tout-ce-quil-faut-savoir-sur-le-plan-daction-vaccination-iahp-en-france>




**Influenza
aviaire
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pathogène**


**Une seule
santé**

Pour
en savoir
plus sur
la stratégie
vaccinale

