

Outbreak of avian influenza H7N3 on a turkey farm in the Netherlands

F. C. Velkers, A. Bouma, M. G. R. Matthijs, G. Koch, S. T. Westendorp, J. A. Stegeman

and 0.6 per cent in the hens, and the situation seemed to have normalised (Fig 1).

It was assumed that a viral infection might have caused the problems, followed by secondary bacterial infection with *E coli* or *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale*. Turkey rhinotracheitis or Newcastle disease virus from the first flock, or Newcastle disease vaccine virus used in the second flock were considered as possible sources of the virus.

FOLLOW-UP DURING THE EPIDEMIC OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

Serological findings

wild fowl, which mutated into a highly pathogenic strain some weeks after it had been introduced into the flock; the immune response to the initial infection might have reduced the severity of the clinical signs induced by the highly pathogenic strain, as has been described for H5N2 by Van der Goot and others (2003b). However, it could not be determined from the course of the infection whether this happened. The isolate did not spread to more than three farms, possibly