

SEROLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN WILD BIRDS NEIGHBOURING LARGE-SCALE POULTRY FARMS IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. It is known, that wild birds may act as carriers of avian influenza viruses. Currently, an increasing number of different wild bird species are being found to be infected with the highly pathogenic H5N1 Asian strain of the virus. Migratory wild birds affected by the disease appear to be responsible for spread of the H5N1 virus. The present study was designed to investigate serologically the presence of avian influenza in wild birds neighbouring large-scale poultry farms in Lithuania. For this purpose sixty wild birds (Mallards, Garganays, White-fronted geese, pigeons, sparrows) were caught in large-scale poultry farms area and screened for the presence of antibodies against avian influenza virus by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method. The results from this study have shown that all sera samples were negative to avian influenza virus.

Keywords: avian influenza, wild birds, ELISA.