

Live Bird Market Survey in Chongqing, Guangxi and Hunan Province

Identification of specific risk factors for the presence of HPAI along the market chains can lead to a better understanding of virus epidemiology and help identify which measures (either regulatory or others) could be effective to decrease animal and human health risks. Risk patterns in poultry production and marketing systems therefore need to be identified and targeted for improved prevention, surveillance, and control measures.

Along the market chain, live bird markets (LBMs) are considered an important epidemiological mechanism through which the spread of HPAI has already occurred, thus highlighting the need for active disease surveillance. Additionally, risk factors associated with detection of HPAI at LBMs need to be better understood or quantified at provincial and national level.

Chongqing municipality which has recently joined the USAID funded project lead by FAO has embarked in a live bird market survey, based on



▲ Sampling in Pingdu Market, Fengdu County, Chongqing (Guo Fusheng and Jia Beibei)



▲ Wuyizhonglu Waterfowl Market in Nanning City, Guangxi

the methodology developed in Hunan, Guangxi and Yunnan in 2009. The current survey started in January 2010 with the visit of Dr Guo Fusheng, national technical advisor and Jia Beibei, national epidemiologist who visited 10 markets distributed in Jiulongpo, Yubei, Beibei, Banan, Qijiang, Jiangjin, Bishan, Changshou, Hechuan Districts and assisted the national authorities in taking high quality and appropriate samples for laboratory testing.

Other two branches of 2010 LBMs survey has also started in Guangxi (Wuyizhonglu waterfowl Market and Wuliting Market, Nanning City) and Hunan (Shima Market and Yangjiashan Market, since January 2010).

Another round of live bird market investigation activities will be conducted in Guangxi and Hunan Province in February.

Year of the Tiger

As you might be aware, there are twelve symbolic animals associated with a twelve-year cycle. Tiger ranked third among the twelve animals and 2010 is the year of tiger. When the Chinese celebrate the Spring Festival, they often say "Guo Nian". In the folklore, Nian was a terrible monster. By lighting the firecrackers, you are literally keeping the man-eating, horrifying monster at bay. Lion dancing, placing the couplet along either side of the doorway, hanging the lanterns are the Chinese traditions during the Spring Festival. Children are excited about it, not only because of the delicious food, fun playing but also getting the red packets from their parents and relatives. Finally, wish you and your family a very Happy Chinese New Year!

Greet your neighbor and friends using the following phrases:

新年快乐 (xin nian kuai le) Happy New Year

虎年到了 (hu nian dao le) The year of Tiger has arrived

恭喜发财 (gong xi fa cai) Congratulations of getting rich

