CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY AGENCY
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CAHFSA URGES HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE FOLLOWING NEWCASTLE DISEASE OUTBREAK IN BRAZIL

The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) is reminding CARICOM Member States to strengthen surveillance and biosecurity measures following confirmation of a Newcastle Disease outbreak at a commercial turkey establishment in Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Brazil's Official Veterinary Service confirmed the outbreak on 18 October 2026 following routine surveillance and subsequent laboratory testing. Although no clinical signs were observed in the affected flock, genetic sequencing confirmed the presence of a virulent Newcastle Disease virus. Brazilian authorities are conducting epidemiological investigations and implementing control measures in accordance with their National Contingency Plan. Brazil has also ceased poultry exports from Santa Catarina.

CAHFSA has circulated the outbreak notification to the CARICOM Committee of Chief Veterinary Officers (CCCVO), emphasising the importance of enhanced surveillance, strengthened farm-level biosecurity and continued implementation of measures to prevent the introduction and spread of the disease within the region.

Member States are being encouraged to urgently review their existing import risk assessments and implement appropriate additional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) safeguards, including restrictions on imports originating from affected areas, where warranted by national risk assessments.

CAHFSA will continue to monitor developments, engage regional CVOs and provide technical guidance and coordination to support a consistent, risk-based regional response.

The Caribbean poultry industry is critical to regional food security, livelihoods and agricultural development. Protecting this sector requires proactive national action, effective surveillance and sustained regional cooperation.

CAHFSA therefore calls on Veterinary Services, poultry producers and industry stakeholders to remain vigilant, maintain robust biosecurity practices and promptly report any suspected cases of Newcastle Disease to their respective national authorities.

CAHFSA remains committed to supporting CARICOM Member States in safeguarding animal health and protecting the resilience and sustainability of the Caribbean poultry industry.

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