



CULL TRADERS REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2023 (1Q2023)

CONTENTS

		Page
1	INTRODUCTION	2
2	FARMER AND TRADER REGISTRATION	2
3	LIVE BIRD SALES OFF FARMS	5
4	LIVE BIRD DISTRIBUTION	6
5	CHALLENGES	8
6	REQUIRED ACTIONS	8

1. INTRODUCTION

South African poultry farmers are fortunate to have a ready market for their cull birds. Laying hens and broiler breeders that reach the end of their production cycles are sold live off the farms into the informal economy. These transactions create many jobs in townships and rural areas and also contribute significantly to food security. The handling of live birds potentially exposes humans to zoonotic diseases (caused by the spread of pathogens from animals to people). Isolated cases of the transmission of avian influenza to humans were reported in China and Cyprus in 2022. Of equal concern is the fact that diseased birds circulating in an area can accelerate the spread of viruses to surrounding poultry flocks.

Following the first outbreak of HPAI in South Africa in June 2017, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) introduced regulations to control movement of live birds in an effort to manage the risk posed by their transportation. The task of monitoring the movement of live birds was delegated to the Poultry Disease Management Agency (PDMA).

The prescribed protocol requires farmers to submit a health permit signed by a veterinarian or animal health technician before live birds may be removed off any poultry farm. The permit is valid for five days and once that has elapsed a new one is required to be issued.

A summary of conditions that apply to the granting of removal permits are as follows:

- Farmers wanting to depopulate a flock must contact a registered veterinarian or animal health technician or other delegated authority.
- Flocks must be removed from the farm within five days of the date of the permit.
- The permit does not constitute a movement permit across provincial or international boundaries.
- If any unusual mortality is experienced after removal, the live bird buyer is obliged to stop selling these birds and consult the nearest state veterinary authorities without delay.
- Live birds and eggs on farms within a surveillance zone may not be moved without the express permission of the state veterinarian or other delegated authority.
- DALRRD allows all SAVC-registered veterinarians and animal health technicians to sign the health declarations.

The first winter case of HPAI was reported on a commercial farm in Western Cape on 21 April. It is imperative that producers and cull traders adhere to these protocols to avoid a catastrophe in 2023.

2. FARMER AND TRADER REGISTRATION

The online portal is accessible on the website address <http://www.poultrydiseases.co.za>. Cull traders are required to register on the database and to upload transactional data on a monthly basis. Alternatively, completed sales reconciliation forms can be emailed to Silverpath Consulting (admin@silverpath.co.za). Producers are encouraged to assist traders with online registrations if needed. Producers are requested to email completed removal permits to Silverpath Consulting.

During 2H2017, in the midst of the catastrophic outbreak of HPAI H5N8, a total of 284 poultry companies registered on the PDMA database. These included egg producers, pullet rearers, broiler producers, layer and broiler breeder operations, hatcheries, co-ops, poultry projects and research units. In addition, a total of 8 210 active cull bird traders were listed on the database.

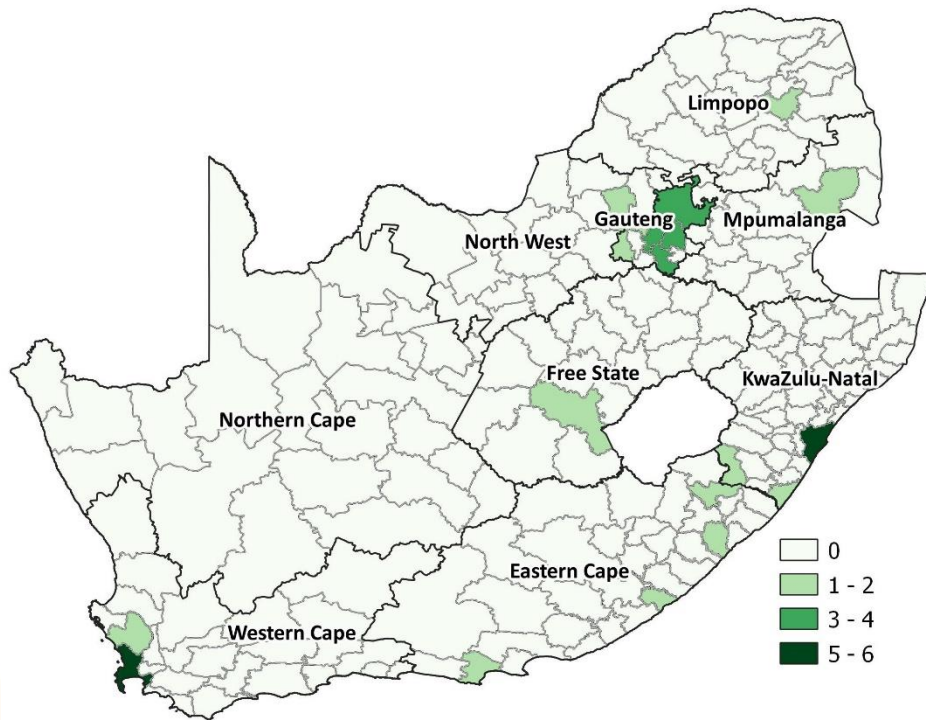
Table 1 provides a breakdown of the registered traders and farmers in each province for the current reporting period and for 4Q2022. The number of registered traders increased by 24 (+1.3%) to 1 883. The number of registered producers decreased by 31 (-2.9%) to 1 040. Total registration decreased from 2 930 in 4Q2022 to 2 923 (-0.2%).

Table 1: Registered live bird traders and poultry producers

Traders	4Q2022	1Q2023	Change	% change
Eastern Cape	78	78	0	0.0
Free State	52	53	1	1.9
Gauteng	367	378	11	3.0
KwaZulu-Natal	75	77	2	2.7
Limpopo	889	888	-1	-0.1
Mpumalanga	85	86	1	1.2
North West	186	196	10	5.4
Northern Cape	5	5	0	0.0
Western Cape	122	122	0	0.0
Total traders	1 859	1 883	24	1.3
Producers				
Eastern Cape	61	61	0	0.0
Free State	99	97	-2	-2.0
Gauteng	182	170	-12	-6.6
KwaZulu-Natal	136	132	-4	-2.9
Limpopo	56	48	-8	-14.3
Mpumalanga	176	174	-2	-1.1
North West	200	198	-2	-1.0
Northern Cape	8	8	0	0.0
Western Cape	153	152	-1	-0.7
Total producers	1 071	1 040	-31	-2.9
Total registration	2 930	2 923	-7	-0.2

The distribution of registered cull depots per local municipality is shown in Figure 1. The depots are concentrated in City of Cape Town (6), eThekweni (6), City of Johannesburg (4), City of Tshwane (4), Ekurhuleni (3) and Midvaal (3). In total 40 cull depots are registered on the database.

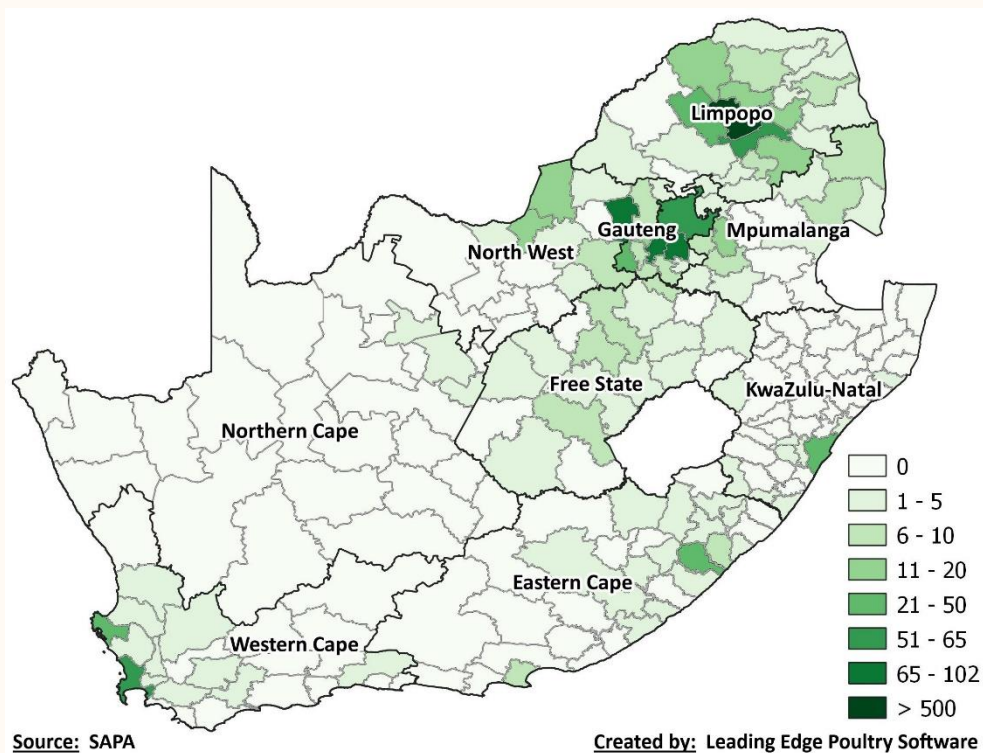
Figure 2 shows the distribution of cull traders per local municipality. The greatest number of traders are to be found in Polokwane (527), followed by City of Johannesburg (101), Ekurhuleni (86) and Rustenburg (82). At this stage 1 599 of the 1 883 cull traders listed on the database have provided their gps coordinates.



Source: SAPA

Created by: Leading Edge Poultry Software

Figure 1: Distribution of cull depots per local municipality (1Q2023)



Source: SAPA

Created by: Leading Edge Poultry Software

Figure 2: Distribution of cull traders per local municipality (1Q2023)

3. LIVE BIRD SALES OFF FARMS

Table 2 shows the number of cull birds that were sold by poultry producers during 1Q2023. This information is obtained from the removal permits issued by the veterinarians and animal health technicians. These figures exclude point-of-lay pullets and broiler breeders transferred from rearing to laying farms.

Table 2: Summary of culls sold off farm

Month	Layers		Broiler breeders		Total
	Number	Age (weeks)	Number	Age (weeks)	
Jan-23	27 600	73.0	40 329	65.0	67 929
Feb-23	178 700	75.2	22 559	65.0	201 259
Mar-23	37 900	75.0	20 460	65.0	58 360
TOTAL	244 200	74.9	83 348	65.0	327 548

In total 244 200 cull birds were sold off commercial laying farms. According to SAPA’s forecasting models, the estimated number of laying hens depopulated during 1Q2023 was 5.67 million; the number reflected here therefore represents 4.3% of the total (compared to 6.2% in 4Q2022). A total of 83 348 cull birds were sold off broiler breeder farms during the quarter. The number of broiler breeder hens due for depopulation was forecasted to be 2.05 million; the sample here therefore represents 4.1% of the total (compared to 5.8% in 4Q2022).

Figure 3 indicates the size of the sample of data submitted by producers during 1Q2023, relative to the estimated number of cull birds in the broiler and egg industries.

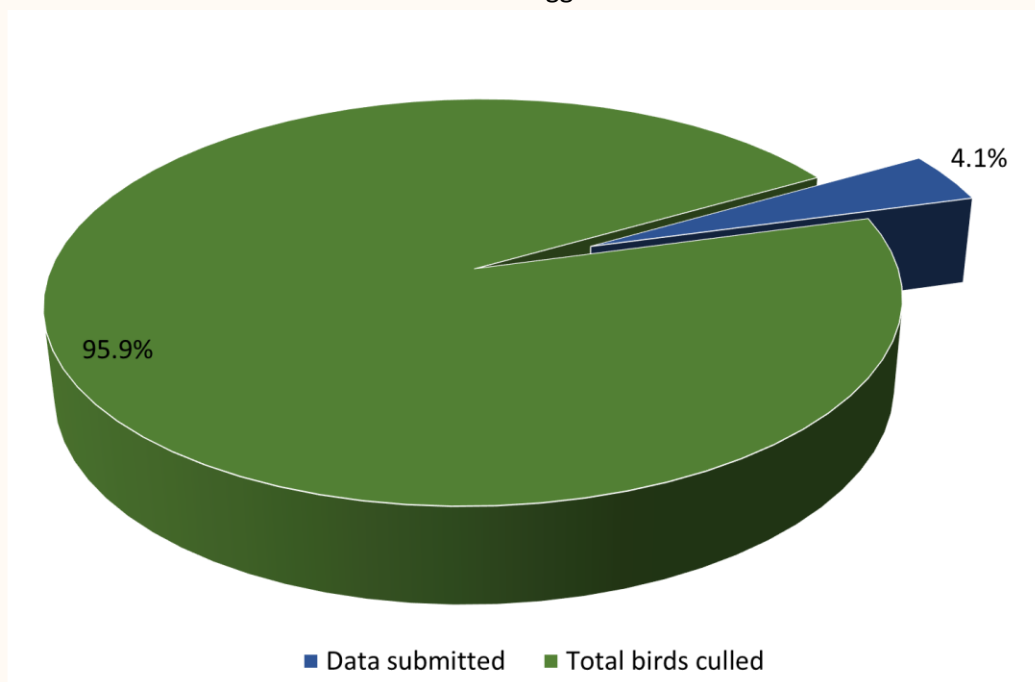


Figure 3: Showing the sample size as a percentage of total industry culls (1Q2023)

4. LIVE BIRD DISTRIBUTION

Table 3 summarises the trader statistics for the quarter.

Province	Chickens at start	Chickens bought	Chickens sold	Chickens remaining	Number of deaths
Eastern Cape	0	241 165	239 200	0	1 965
Free State	0	35 335	34 924	237	174
Gauteng	22 585	586 222	603 752	404	4 651
KwaZulu-Natal	1 218	235 313	236 117	51	363
Limpopo	0	18 625	18 078	29	518
Mpumalanga	0	6 687	6 553	0	134
North West	0	33 030	32 686	151	193
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	1 473	41 644	38 910	3 469	738
Total	25 276	1 198 021	1 210 220	4 341	8 736

Based on the information received, close to 1.2 million live birds were purchased by cull traders and 1.21 million birds were distributed into the market during this period. There were 8 736 mortalities (0.7% of total) while the birds were in the possession of cull traders. The main cause of death was stress owing to hot weather, but trampling, wing and leg breakages, unknown diseases and prolapses were also cited as reasons for bird mortalities.

Figure 4 illustrates the provincial distribution of purchases of cull birds from farms during 1Q2023. According to these statistics, Gauteng was the hub of activity followed by Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Figure 5 shows the provincial distribution of sales of live birds by cull traders to their customers. Gauteng reported the highest number of sales, followed by Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. This data suggests that live birds are mainly sold within the province of purchase and are not transported across provincial borders.

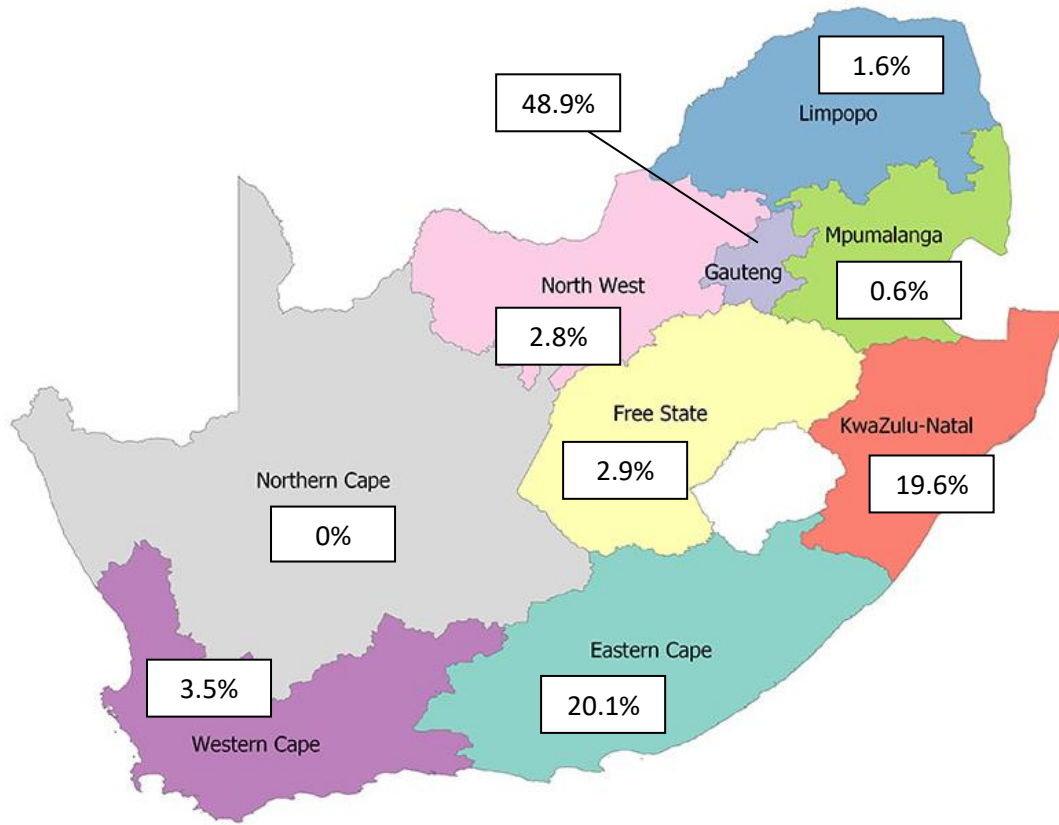


Figure 4: Provincial purchases of cull birds from farms in 1Q2023

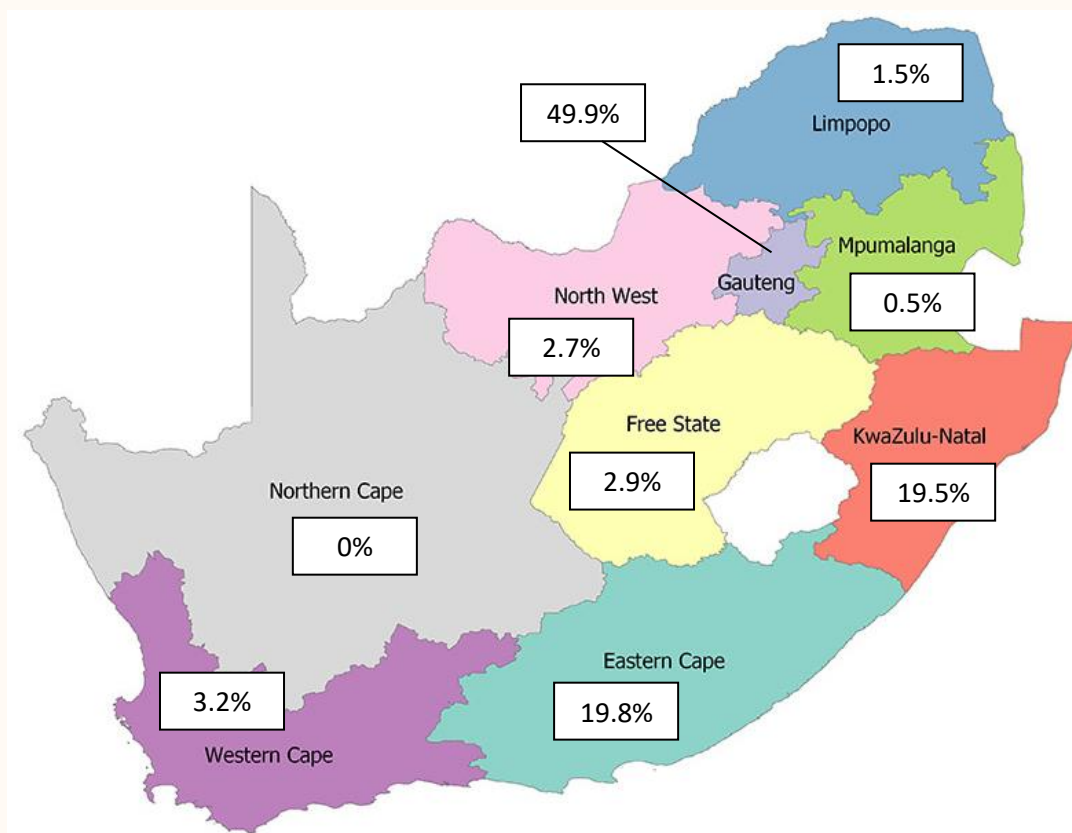


Figure 5: Provincial sales of cull birds by traders in 1Q2023

5. CHALLENGES

It remains a challenge to increase participation in the cull trader monitoring system and in the flow of information to SAPA. As with all statistical surveys, the size of the data set is crucial in determining the precision of the estimates and the usefulness of the reported information to the industry. The objectives of DALRRD and the PDMA are to limit the spread of viruses and to effectively contain outbreaks of avian influenza. The cull trader database has the potential to assist with traceability in the event of an outbreak.

6. REQUIRED ACTIONS

SAPA encourages all poultry producers and cull traders to comply with the protocols regulating the movement of live birds, particularly those in the provinces of Free State, Mpumalanga, North West and Western Cape because of their large poultry populations. Limiting the spread of avian influenza is in the interests of the poultry sector and allied industries as well as members of the public. The recent confirmation of the first winter outbreak of H5 in Western Cape should galvanise all participants into action.

Persons needing assistance may contact Cynthia Ncube (cynthia@silverpath.co.za) or Louisa Nel (reception@sapoultry.co.za). The data is processed by Ireen Lekabe, who may be contacted on 011 794 1842 or 067 198 3557.

*Data collated by Silverpath Consulting
Report compiled by Leading Edge Poultry Software cc*

Disclaimer: *The views expressed in SAPA STATS reports reflect those of SAPA in collaboration with its independent consultants and do not constitute any specific advice as to decisions or actions that should be taken. While every care has been taken in preparing documents no representation nor warranty or any expressed or implied undertaking is given and no responsibility or liability is accepted by SAPA as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein whether as electronic data or as a finished report. SAPA or its independent consultants do not accept responsibility or liability for any damages of whatsoever nature which any person may suffer as a result of any decision or action taken on the basis of the information contained herein. All opinions and estimates contained in the reports may be changed after publication without notice.*

These statistical reports and/or electronic data are placed in the public domain and may be used by other parties conditional to the source of the data/ report being attributed to SAPA.