Outbreak of avian infectious bronchitis (IB) in Finland
Tammiranta, N., Huovilainen, A. and Ek-Kommonen, C., Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira, Research and Laboratory Department/Veterinary Virology Research Unit, Finland; niina.tammiranta@evira.fi

Avian infectious bronchitis (IB) is one of the most important poultry diseases that cause severe economic losses in the poultry industry worldwide. Finland has been free of IB for decades. Last outbreaks were in the 1970’s. In 2007 there was one outbreak with a virus that was suspected of originating from a vaccine virus although vaccination for infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) was not allowed at that time. The good situation has been partly due to strict import regulations possible to maintain because of our good Salmonella situation and our non-vaccination status of Newcastle disease. In the spring of 2011 IB was confirmed in a layer flock with clinical symptoms. The layer flock had a lot of contacts with hobby flocks. Vigilance combined with follow up studies led to the detection of IB in further flocks. The present epidemiological situation as well as clinical symptoms, both respiratory symptoms and reduced performance, indicate that both broilers and layers have come in contact with IBV. The outbreak in the field is continuing and at the moment we receive samples from new cases weekly. We have found different types of IB viruses and their characterization is in process. The results will be presented in the poster. An epidemiological investigation has been started to find out the origin of the viruses. IB vaccination has not been practiced in Finland although one inactivated vaccine has been on the market. The decision about using a live vaccine is still pending.