



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Resolution

114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010

Minneapolis, MN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 44 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: URBAN CHICKENS/POULTRY-NEED FOR TARGETED EDUCATION AND FUNDING FOR PEOPLE IN METROPOLITAN AREAS RAISING POULTRY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There exists a current trend in many large and mid-sized cities across the United States for people to raise poultry, primarily chickens, for the purpose of food (meat and/or eggs) and companionship. Many of the people undertaking this effort are not versed in the husbandry and disease control programs for poultry.

Changes in zoning ordinances are occurring in many cities which allow small flocks to be raised in urban areas. There is a need to educate "urban poultry" raisers, who typically do not come from an agricultural background, on poultry disease control, zoonotic disease, and food borne disease.

The United States has experienced significant disease problems affecting the health of the national flock as well as the economic health of the country related to export and domestic sales. The most notable of these problems have been outbreaks of Exotic Newcastle disease and repeated occurrences of avian influenza in different areas of the country.

There is a continued need for funding to expand currently existing federal and state educational campaigns and disease monitoring programs targeted at these poultry populations.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), expand the existing educational materials produced by the Biosecurity for the Birds (Healthy Birds) campaign to include specific materials for urban poultry owners. In addition, the USAHA urges the USDA-APHIS-VS to maintain adequate funding for the Biosecurity for the Birds (Healthy Birds) campaign and maintain funding to states to fully support the national notifiable avian influenza (NAI) domestic poultry programs. Further, the USAHA urges Congress to continue to appropriate funds to USDA-APHIS-VS for the Biosecurity for the Birds (Healthy Birds) campaign and notifiable avian influenza programs.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association regarding the need for targeted education for people who raise poultry in metropolitan areas. APHIS continues to maintain the Biosecurity for the Birds campaign, as it is regarded as a highly successful outreach campaign both by States and industry. Additionally, the Live Bird Market Technical Working Group recommended at its February 2011 meeting that APHIS continue to support the Biosecurity for the Birds campaign.

The campaign already includes creative ways to reach its target audience, including urban poultry owners. For example, it works with hatcheries and feed distributors to place messages on their product packaging (chicks and chicken feed). One of the most recognized and widely used publications is the annual biosecurity calendar. The campaign has begun Bird Health Awareness Week (the first week in November) as an additional way to focus attention on biosecurity and disease awareness. In addition, more than 350 people participated in an educational webinar held in November 2010; many of them were urban poultry owners.

VS recently completed a study on poultry ownership in four metropolitan areas: Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles, California; Miami, Florida; and New York City, New York. The study, which will be released this spring, provides valuable information about urban poultry owners that will further help the Biosecurity for the Birds campaign target this audience.

Regarding funding, the President's fiscal year 2012 budget requested \$43.6 million for the avian health line item. This request is intended to support our avian influenza domestic poultry programs as well as the Biosecurity for the Birds campaign.

FINAL RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

USDA APHIS VS acknowledges the concerns of the USAHA regarding the need for targeted education for people who raise poultry in metropolitan areas. APHIS continues to maintain the Biosecurity for Birds campaign, as it is regarded as a highly successful outreach campaign by both States and industry. Additionally, the Live Bird Marketing System Working Group recommended at its February 2011 meeting that APHIS continue to support the Biosecurity for Birds campaign.

The campaign already includes creative ways to reach its target audience, including urban poultry owners. For example, it works with hatcheries and feed distributors to place messages on their product packaging (chicks and chicken feed). One of the most recognized and widely used publications is the annual Biosecurity for Birds calendar. The campaign has begun Bird Health Awareness Week (the first week in November) as an additional way to focus attention on biosecurity and disease awareness. In addition, more than 350 people participated in an educational webinar held in November 2010; including many urban poultry owners.

VS recently completed a study on poultry ownership in four metropolitan areas: Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles, California; Miami, Florida; and New York City, New York. This study is posted online at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahms/poultry/downloads/poultry10/Poultry10_is_Biosecurity.pdf. The study provides valuable information about urban poultry owners that will further help the Biosecurity for Birds campaign target this audience.

The President's fiscal year 2012 budget requested \$43.6 million for the avian health line item. This request is intended to support our avian influenza domestic poultry programs as well as the Biosecurity for Birds Campaign. As the audience for this information continues to grow, APHIS will continue to request sufficient funds to maintain and support the Healthy Birds campaign.