

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 45 APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: FINAL APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (NPIP)
CONTROL PROGRAM FOR LOW PATHOGENICITY H5/H7
AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) IN COMMERCIAL POULTRY

DATES: Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

After the 2002 outbreak of low pathogenicity H7N2 avian influenza (AI) in Virginia, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS) requested that the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species convene a special meeting to offer advice on the handling of future outbreaks of low pathogenicity H5 or H7 AI. This meeting was held in May 2002 in San Antonio, Texas, and resulted in the recommendation that a cooperative state-federal control program was needed. Due to the past success of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) with other poultry disease control programs, it was recommended that NPIP develop and administer the final program. A thorough deliberative process, involving industry, state, and federal government personnel and experts on the epidemiology of AI resulted in a final proposed program that was ratified by the NPIP General Conference Committee in July 2004. The ratified program is currently in the departmental review process. In the past three and a half years, there have been outbreaks of H7N2 low pathogenicity AI (LPAI) in Connecticut layers, H7N2 LPAI in broilers on the Delmarva Peninsula, H5N2 highly pathogenic AI (HPAI) in a live bird market supplier and H7N3 LPAI in commercial breeders in Texas, and H7N3 HPAI in broilers in British Columbia. International events have focused attention on this disease, the devastation that it is capable of visiting on the poultry industry, and the potential threat it represents to public health. The time has come to act quickly and decisively to control this threat.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to proceed with all due speed to approve and implement the proposed National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Control Program for Low Pathogenicity H5/H7 Avian Influenza in Commercial Poultry.

RESPONSE:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)

The Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza Voluntary Control Program and Payment of Indemnity Interim Rule and request for comments is currently in final clearance within the Department. The Agency has placed a high priority on this interim rule and is working to expedite its publication. We anticipate the interim rule should be published by May 2006.