

HPAI Outbreak and Response

Nebraska 2022

NEBRASKA

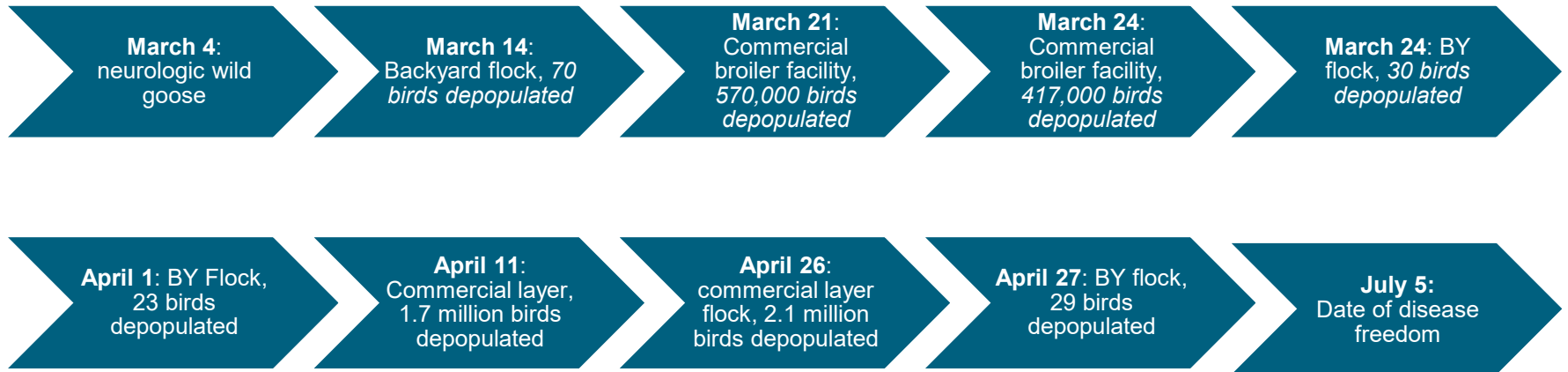
Good Life. Great Roots.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NE HPAI - By the Numbers

- Date of first involvement: **March 4, 2022**
 - Neurologic goose in a Walgreens parking lot
- Commercial facilities infected:
 - Broilers: 2
 - Layers: 2
- Backyard flocks infected: 4
 - Located near outdoor water sources
- Date of declared disease freedom:

Timeline



Number of birds depopulated: **4.7 million birds**

Days from first to last positive case: **54 days**

Depopulation and Disposal

- **Depopulation**
 - **Commercial facilities:** VSD+heat and some CO₂
 - **Backyard flocks:**
 - mobile CO₂ chamber
 - Injectable barbiturate
 - Cervical dislocation
 - +/- a combination of all of the above
- **Disposal:**
 - **Commercial facilities:** composted
 - SMEs
 - Layers composted outside
 - Broilers composted in house
 - **BY flocks** incinerated at local facilities

Successes

- **Declared Free of HPAI – July 5th.**
- **UNL VDL**
 - Under new management
 - Staff stayed late to accommodate urgency with testing
- **Amicable and functional relationship between NDA, USDA, and industry veterinarians**
 - Weekly vet calls

Difficulties

- Paperwork
 - Changing forms
 - No/poor online access
 - Varying requirements on who signs what and when
 - Redundancy – Online portal for paperwork would be great
 - A moving target!
- Depopulation of backyard flocks when more than one species is present
 - Merrick 01
 - Producer compliance
 - Difficulty euthanizing free range animals of various species

Looking Forward

- Initial response
 - Working with NE USDA on protocol for document flow
 - Working on assembling useful information for BY producers about what to expect and when
 - 6pm deadline for signing paperwork
- Depopulation/disposal
 - Will require a composting SME to be present on commercial facilities
 - Wildlife services to be present when depopulating “free range” backyard flocks or flocks that contain waterfowl
- Surveillance
 - Targeted outreach to vet clinics in affected counties
- Miscellaneous
 - GIS
 - Code Red
 - Regular calls with stakeholders