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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 22                      **APPROVED**

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:**                      **Incorporation of Poultry Industry Biosecurity Oversight into the National Poultry Improvement Plan**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The 2015 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak in the United States (U.S.) was the largest foreign animal disease outbreak in U.S. history, costing producers and governments over \$1 billion. To enable producers to better protect themselves, and to offer government entities some insight into producers' self-protection efforts, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services has created a biosecurity self-assessment tool and national poultry producer organizations are developing guidelines. Producers and agencies are working to standardize and strengthen the impact of biosecurity oversight through regular engagement and consistent auditing.

A number of approaches for overseeing biosecurity have been discussed, but the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) stands out as the best home for standardizing and administering biosecurity. The NPIP is a longstanding, internationally accepted USDA poultry disease control program driven by industry, academic, state, and federal input, and is formally structured to regularly adapt in response to changing needs.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services evaluate the use of the National Poultry Improvement Plan for oversight of poultry industry biosecurity programs.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS appreciates the interest by USAHA in supporting a system for the oversight of biosecurity in poultry facilities.

APHIS issued an interim rule on February 9, 2016, that required large owners and contractors to provide a statement that at the time of detection of HPAI in their facilities, they had in place and were following a written biosecurity plan. The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) General Conference Committee (GCC) will be submitting a proposal at the 43<sup>rd</sup> NPIP Biennial Conference which consists of a set of poultry biosecurity principles to be added to the NPIP Program Standards. These principles will serve as the minimum biosecurity principles that any poultry operation should follow. Site-specific plans for each poultry farm can be extrapolated from these minimum biosecurity principles. The NPIP GCC is in the early stages of evaluating, determining and developing how the auditing, oversight and verification of the biosecurity plans could best be implemented.