
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: H5/H7 LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is the Federal government's poultry disease control program administered in cooperation with state animal health officials and poultry producers. The General Conference Committee (GCC) of the NPIP is the Official Federal Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture on matters pertaining to poultry health. Among other duties, the GCC is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) on maintaining adequate NPIP funding to enable the Senior Coordinator to fully administer NPIP provisions, advise USDA, APHIS with respect to administrative procedures and interpretations of the NPIP provisions as contained in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations, and to serve as a direct liaison between the NPIP and the United States Animal Health Association.

In 2002 H7N2 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) was identified in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia costing producers hundreds of millions of dollars. A surveillance program was not in place to detect the potential spread of Avian Influenza (AI). In response, the NPIP LPAI program was created to provide an incentive for regular AI surveillance and to protect poultry producers through indemnification and compensation should H5/H7 LPAI be found.

AI remains a concern for poultry producers in the United States with the H5N2 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in 23 states in 2014–2015; H7N8 HPAI/LPAI in Indiana in 2016, H5N2 LPAI in Wisconsin in 2017, and H7N9 HPAI/LPAI in Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia in 2017. The NPIP is the only Federal program responsible for H5/H7 LPAI surveillance, response, and containment activities. Disruption of prevention and surveillance activities for H5/H7 LPAI will result in loss of confidence and trust, and could potentially create a harmful impact on future responses to H5/H7 LPAI. This loss of confidence and trust discourages poultry producers (commercial, independent growers, and small flocks) from fully complying with NPIP testing programs and cooperating with state and Federal regulatory authorities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress to increase funding for the avian health commodity line item appropriation.