
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29

APPROVED

SUBJECT MATTER: H5/H7 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response

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 United States 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) regarding adequate funding of NPIP. These funds are necessary for proper administration of NPIP provisions. The NPIP senior coordinator also advises 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.

Avian influenza remains a concern for poultry producers in the United States with the H₅N₂ highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak 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, H₇N₃ LPAI in California in 2018, and H₅N₂ LPAI in Minnesota in 2018. The NPIP is the only federal program responsible for H₅/H₇ LPAI surveillance, response, and containment activities. HPAI flocks are fully indemnified and compensated by USDA, APHIS, VS; however, indemnity and compensation for H₅/H₇ LPAI flocks by VS is often not certain. Disruption of indemnity and compensation for H₅/H₇ LPAI can 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 operations, independent growers, and small flocks) from fully complying with NPIP testing programs and cooperating with state and federal regulatory authorities, potentially risking the industry's significant international trade. Without dedicated funding for LPAI indemnity

and compensation, there is limited incentive for producers to participate in the highly successful voluntary NPIP programs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the 116th United States Congress appropriate new, no-year, mandatory fiscal appropriations dedicated for low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) indemnity and compensation to ensure continued participation in National Poultry Improvement Plan H₅/H₇ LPAI programs. This new appropriation will support the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services' effort to provide a stable indemnity and compensation program for H₅/H₇ LPAI flocks.