
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 Combined with 28 Approved

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES
 COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL ANIMAL HEALTH AND TRADE**

**SUBJECT MATTER: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Compensation and
 Indemnification**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States has experienced devastating losses due to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in 2022 with over 42 million birds affected to date (9/15/22). While the efforts addressing this animal health crisis have been exemplary by all stakeholders, continuing to ensure swift depopulation, virus elimination and surveillance is vital to lifting official control areas, and allowing continuity of trade from previously restricted areas. After 14 days since depopulation and initial virus elimination activities have been completed on the infected premises, and all required surveillance testing within the control area has been completed, the control area may be released. Delays that affect the speed of depopulation and virus elimination of infected premises increases the length of quarantines and impact the ability of states and/or regions to regain HPAI free status, which can be achieved following a minimum period of 28 days after stamping-out policy of all affected sites when surveillance requirements are met per World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Article 10.4.28. This, in turn, can prolong trade restrictions. Adopting policies to incentivize virus elimination of affected premises would help keep timeframes to regain freedom status closer to the 28-day timeframe as described in the Terrestrial code of the WOA in order to minimize trade restrictions related to HPAI incidents.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to revise highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) response plans to incentivize swift establishment of initial virus elimination dates and disinfection dates for all HPAI positive premises, including backyard and commercial poultry flocks, for the purpose of minimizing disease spread and the impact of trade restrictions.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

Since the outbreak began in 2022, VS has revised and implemented many policies to streamline response activities and hasten virus elimination for backyard and commercial flocks. These actions include shortening fallow periods, reducing paperwork requirements, streamlining environmental sampling procedures, and expediting cost approvals. In addition, our Unified Incident Management Teams are focusing on identifying and securing local response resources that can be rapidly deployed, such as water sources, composting materials, equipment, and labor.

Our efforts to refine policies to accelerate recovery for HPAI-affected areas are continuous, and we expect to implement several other policy updates in 2023. One important revision in development would set expectations for the timely completion of depopulation, disposal, and virus elimination activities in flock plan agreements between an HPAI-affected producer and state and federal animal health officials.