

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 56 APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: LOW PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA
PROGRAM FUNDS

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) has existed in the Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS) of the Northeast and other locations for 15 years. An extensive campaign has reduced the prevalence and incidence of LPAI within the LBMS in the Northeast. Recent test results demonstrate the effectiveness of this effort.

Current progress within the market system is due, in large part, to the provision of personnel and other resources to establish control at various levels of the supply continuum. The LPAI national effort has expanded to the point that some 30 states are being recruited and funded for LPAI efforts and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) anticipates additional states participating.

Total funding for the LPAI effort program is now limited. The impact of this level of funding in this environment of increased participation is diminished resources for existing program participants. The reduced level of funding threatens to reverse LPAI market system progress made over the past two years.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to request additional funding to fully support a national low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) program and for Congress to appropriate these monies.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, 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. The Voluntary H5/H7 Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) Prevention and Control Program was initiated in fiscal year (FY) 2004 following serious outbreaks of LPAI H7N2 in Pennsylvania (1996-1998) and Virginia (2002). The Virginia outbreak resulted in the depopulation of approximately 4.7 million birds and losses to the Virginia poultry industry of approximately \$140 million.

The LPAI Program in the commercial poultry industry is administered through the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). In FY 2005, cooperative agreements for the NPIP LPAI program were initiated with 24 States; by the end of FY 2007, 29 States participated. This is a voluntary program that is focused on those States with high concentrations of commercial poultry populations; therefore, not all States see the need to participate.

The LPAI Program in the live bird marketing system (LBMS) provides uniform standards, published in 2004, that are enforced at the State level for the prevention and control of H5/H7 LPAI in retail live bird markets, distributors (haulers, wholesalers, etc.), and production facilities that supply the LBMS. States are responsible for enforcing the LPAI Program standards while VS coordinates and administers the program. VS also provides personnel and resources to assist States with implementation of and compliance with program requirements.

The LBMS-LPAI program in 2004 began with 10 participating States. As of FY 2007, APHIS had initiated cooperative agreements with 33 States/Territories (including Puerto Rico). This is a voluntary program and some States may choose not to participate. The efforts of VS and the participating States have resulted in a marked decline in the incidence of LPAI viruses in the LBMS in the United States, particularly in New Jersey and New York.

Securing funding to support the H5/H7 LPAI Program is an ongoing process. The Program was initiated in FY 2004 with Commodity Credit Corporation funds, which allocated \$4.7 million for program development and \$6.0 million for indemnity. In FY 2005, \$11.0 million (LPAI line item) was allocated and an additional \$12.0 million specified for indemnity. In FY 2006 and FY 2007, the Program received \$14.0 million and \$13.0 million, respectively. APHIS will continue to request additional and sufficient funds to maintain and support the H5/H7 LPAI Program. The final amount of appropriated funding is at the discretion of the U.S. Congress.