



United States Department of Agriculture

# Fall Planning for HPAI

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Veterinary Services**



# Incident Command System

- Local resources first, (Not Top down)
- Unified command (all units, state, federal and Industry)
- APHIS Support ( when local /state resources overwhelmed or response capability is lacking)
- USDA Support (APHIS resources overwhelmed)
- Additional Federal Departmental Support (USDA resources overwhelmed)
- Coordination
- All hands on deck.

# Incident Command System

- APHIS, Veterinary Services
- Incident Management Teams (4-5)
- Rotational Gaps (28 days/ 3day overlap)
- Protocols and SOPs (Consistency)
- Reset and retrain for Fall
- Rethink boots on the ground.  
(oversight/partnership)
- Site Managers (Local) (Remain throughout E&D,  
C&D, Environmental testing and  
Restock)(Consistency)

# Resources

- APHIS, Veterinary Services (1800)
- APHIS (8000)
- Fire Engine (Justification) (Funding)
- Training (Funding)
- Contracting
- Response needs
- Future Performance based/ Not hourly
- Cost Comparisons (3000 people and equipment)
- Skin in the game (Industry/Producers/State and Federal)



# Worst Case Scenario

## Challenge from Agriculture Secretary Vilsack

**Fall Planning was constructed around a Worst Case Scenario defined as:**

- Multiple segments and sectors concurrently in multiple states;
- Commercial: high volume and high value;
- Live Bird Marketing System;
- Backyard flocks;
- 500 or more commercial establishments affected;
- Top 20 layer, broiler, and turkey producing states (AL, AR, CA, DE, GA, IN, IA, KY, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NC, OH, PA, SC, TX, and VA)
- an animal health event in poultry, with no zoonotic spread.

# Key Focus Areas

- Biosecurity;
- Depopulation & Disposal;
- Diagnostics;
- Vaccination and Trade;
- Economics;
- Budget/funding;
- Outreach and Public Affairs



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# Avian Influenza and Poultry Trade International Conference

- Held in Baltimore, MD on June 22-25, 2015
- This meeting had over 200 attendees from 37 countries (CVOs)
- OIE
- More information can be found on our website



# Fall Planning Workshop

- Hosted in Riverdale MD on June 30-July 1
- 100 representatives from industry, officials from the top poultry-producing States, and USDA personnel.
- Organized as workshop with small group discussion
- Purpose to plan for a worst-case HPAI scenario this fall
- Specific goals were to identify what improvements and expansions of current response activities are needed; what response gaps exist at the Federal, State or industry level; how these gaps can be remedied; and what commitments participants can make to address these gaps.
- Urgency???????



# State and Industry Preparedness Surveys

- One of the “next steps” that came out of the HPAI fall planning meeting was to conduct a nationwide review of emergency resources and planning activities to date: personnel, equipment, emergency plans, disposal options, etc.
- critical for joint Federal-State-Industry efforts to prepare for potential HPAI outbreaks.
- State survey distributed on July 6, responses due July 24 – are summarizing and analyzing now.
- Industry survey set to distribute week of July 27 to be due Aug. 7



# What we heard

## Biosecurity Gaps

- Epidemiological data needs to be faster and include more data analysis and interpretation;
- Biosecurity plans that are site-specific need to be developed and auditable; verification process; starting Standardized template, third party oversight.
- Real-time information about newly affected premises needs to be shared; producers want to know for operational purposes, confidentiality!!!!
- A culture of biosecurity needs to be pervasive, applied as appropriate, based on resources, industry driven guidelines for development.



# Biosecurity: APHIS/Industry Actions

- Develop biosecurity checklist for relevant commodities.
- Develop options for an auditing system to verify implementation of recommended biosecurity practices including self-certification;
- Develop a template that can be used by producers to develop a site-specific risk based evaluation of their facility.
- Documenting (or developing) reference materials for producers that will provide additional information and instructions on developing site specific plans.
- Developing an education and outreach program related to biosecurity (including multi-lingual materials) in conjunction with LPA and Industry PIOs.



# Individual Site Emergency Management Plans

- Euthanasia?
- Disposal?
- Cleaning and Disinfection?
- Manure / Compost Management?
- Resources needed to accomplish E&D and C&D
- Can we beat the virus?????

# Depopulation Gaps

- Some facilities do not have site-specific depopulation plans;
- The most efficient way of depopulating flocks is not recognized as “acceptable;”





# Depopulation: APHIS Actions

- Implement 24 hour performance measure for depopulation. (Tie it to Indemnity?)
- Explore additional options for depopulation and determine levels of support (FYI: Departmental policy statement below)
- Inventory equipment for depopulation and disposal and consider re-positioning based on results.

# Disposal Gaps

Producers and growers are sometimes unable to execute disposal plans.

Attitudes/Lack of understanding/  
Fear/Business Model/Transport issues.

Composting

Landfills

Incineration

Burial



**Rendering!!!!**



# Disposal: APHIS/State Actions

- Develop key talking points to separate “fact” from “fiction” around disposal issues for HPAI poultry waste;
- Develop SOPs for safely transporting waste from farms to landfills;
- Provide transporters with up-to-date info. about the status of quarantine zones and poultry premises along major transportation routes; (e.g., mobile phone apps)
- DOT routes

# Cleaning and Disinfection - Gap

A lack of definitive guidance about the best way to clean and disinfect a building; What is clean???

Virus Kill Step  
Ready





# Cleaning and Disinfecting: APHIS Actions

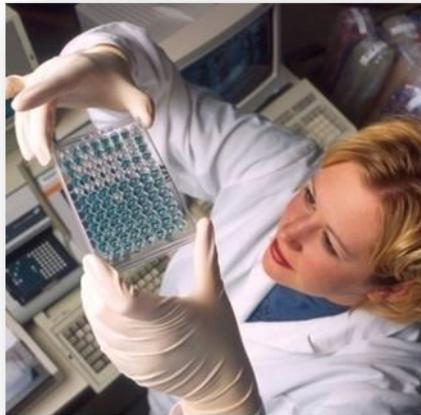
- Summarize existing knowledge about effective C&D practices/methods/variance conditions; (manure handling must be addressed).
- Develop further guidelines on cleaning and disinfecting methods;
- Options.....Science.....Fallow (120Days)

# Indemnity and Reimbursement: APHIS Actions with Industry Input

- Develop a more uniform and efficient reimbursement process for C &D—e.g., a per bird or per square foot basis; capped amount;
- Review and where appropriate reconcile and adjust calculators as needed.
- Work with growers/producers to develop more efficient ways to verify inventories and poultry mortality to expedite depopulation;

# Diagnostics - Gap

- Feedback is that current diagnostic testing capacity for HPAI is not sufficient for a large-scale outbreak



# Diagnostics: APHIS Actions

- Assessing NAHLN capacity – especially in “top 20” Poultry States – and prepare for NALHN activation.
- Develop a diagnostic laboratory communication plan to disseminate updates and changes to participating laboratories quickly and efficiently.
- Continue efforts to implement electronic messaging of results from high volume/high priority labs.
- Conduct additional proficiency testing in NAHLN labs to add to the pool of trained personnel

# Vaccination and Trade Gaps

- Vaccines are under development and testing. (promising efficacy in the lab). Field application testing needed.
- Limited understanding about immediate and long-term impacts of HPAI on international and domestic markets
- Discussions about ways to mitigate these impacts are planned for the future.
- Policy, strategy for use, and tracking methodology will need to be clearly outlined.

# Vaccination: APHIS Actions

- Will soon implement a consultation strategy with industry and States to further develop and refine our proposed vaccine policy.
- Issue a Request for Proposals to identify viable vaccine candidates
- CVB is working with vaccine manufacturers , ARS, and others to expedite review and licensure of candidate vaccines, as appropriate.
- Develop clear simple messages about vaccine use and implications for food safety;

# Trade

- Ongoing conversations with animal health officials in foreign countries to educate about HPAI status and enhanced mitigations.
- Coordinating with other USDA agencies to examine economic impacts;

# TEAM

- Many issues we must get worked out together.
- Only as good as our weakest teammate.
- Point fingers or build support.
- HPAI is the enemy.
- Collaboration is important, but it will not be enough. (Participation)
- Pig and the Chicken
- Commitment vs Participation.
- Skin in the Game



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# Actions for Industry, States, and APHIS

Next Steps for You?  
Let's discuss

