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
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;
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
Actions for Industry, States, and APHIS

Next Steps for You?
Let’s discuss