



Interagency Strategic Plan for Avian Influenza Surveillance in Migratory Birds

The United States Government is acutely aware of the threat the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza viruses poses to our Nation's public health, agriculture industries, and economy. President Bush's National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza is mobilizing the Government's wide-ranging expertise and resources to ensure that all appropriate preparations are being made for the potential spread of the disease to our country.

Today, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and the Interior are pleased to release this inter-agency strategic plan that expands the monitoring of migratory birds in the United States and establishes common protocol for testing birds and tracking the data. This plan reflects the best possible scientific information on the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus and the migratory patterns of wild birds. In addition, the plan draws on our ongoing partnerships with State and private wildlife experts, as well as public health officials.

This plan is an essential component of the unified national system for the early detection of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus. Such systems—in place for public health, commercial poultry, and now wild birds—enable the Federal Government to work with State and local officials to protect the U.S. to the extent possible and ensure a swift, coordinated response in the event of a detection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Ron DeHaven".

W. Ron DeHaven
Administrator
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Leahy".

Patrick Leahy
Acting Director
U.S. Geological Survey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Dale Hall".

H. Dale Hall
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Baughman".

John Baughman
Executive Vice President
International Association of Fish and
Wildlife Agencies