



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## Draft National Avian Influenza Response Plan Summary

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) remains acutely aware of the threat the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza viruses pose 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.

USDA is pleased to release this Draft National Avian Influenza Response Plan Summary that would guide the steps taken by USDA and our State and industry partners following a detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in domestic poultry or wild birds.

This draft response plan summary reflects USDA's scientific expertise on the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza viruses, as well as our real world experience in planning for and responding to incursions of significant animal diseases into the United States. In addition, the draft plan draws on our ongoing partnerships with other Federal agencies, State Agriculture Departments, State Veterinarians, the poultry industry, and the conservation and wildlife communities. In this way, the draft plan is designed to be flexible and does not supersede any State response plans. Rather, the draft plan complements such plans already in existence or under development.

As a result of table top exercises and numerous meetings and discussions with our partners, the draft response plan already incorporates much positive feedback. In releasing a summary of the draft document today and posting it online at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov), we invite all stakeholders to review and submit their comments and recommendations to us at [NAHEMS.Guidelines.Comments@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:NAHEMS.Guidelines.Comments@aphis.usda.gov). In this way, we intend for the response plan to be an evolving document that takes into account the latest scientific information and approaches to emergency preparedness and response.

This plan is an essential component of the unified national system for the early detection of, and rapid response to, the Asian H5N1 avian influenza virus. USDA appreciates your ongoing support of, and interest in, these critical missions and we look forward to your input.

Sincerely,

W. Ron DeHaven  
Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

