

# Avian Influenza Summary Response Plan

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today released a summary of its National Avian Influenza Response Plan. The summary document provides an overview of the national plan which provides general guidelines. APHIS will use the draft response plan for rapidly detecting and quickly and effectively responding, should high- pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) virus enter the United States.

The draft plan has been shared with cooperators and stakeholders and includes their initial feedback. APHIS has posted the draft plan at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov), (click the avian influenza link) for broader stakeholder review. This document is a living document in that it will continue to evolve as additional comments are received and more knowledge is gained on avian influenza (AI).

USDA's draft response plan includes standard operating procedures after a finding of HPAI. Field operations guidelines for emergency responders address roles and responsibilities, quarantine and movement controls, appraisal and compensation, euthanasia, disposal, cleaning and disinfection, biosecurity, and wildlife management. Finally, the draft response plan provides for the stockpiling and use of personal protective equipment for AI responders. USDA has also developed a comprehensive Communications Emergency Response Plan. The plan in brief is de-

scribed in Appendix C. The full plan is being shared with Federal, State, and industry entities in order to coordinate media and public response to any possible HPAI detection.

USDA has a variety of prevention and preparedness activities ongoing both internationally and domestically. Internationally, USDA is collaborating with the U. S. Agency for International Development to prevent and control HPAI where it currently exists. This strategy assumes that the best way to protect animal and public health is to address the virus at its source. Domestically, USDA is working to prevent and control H5 and H7 AI in U.S. commercial broilers, layers, and turkeys including backyard flocks; their respective breeders; and the live bird marketing system. In addition to import restrictions and activities to prevent illegal entry of poultry and poultry products, a major component of the domestic program is surveillance, both in domestic poultry and wild birds.

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