

## Background

In 2006 the proposal, *An Early Detection System for Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza in Wild Migratory Birds U.S. Interagency Strategic Plan*,<sup>1</sup> was published. Out of this document came a number of recommendations including the development of the Interagency Steering Committee.

The specific roles of this Committee included:<sup>1</sup>

- Facilitate communication between state and federal agencies and organizations involved in AI surveillance for wild birds.
- Coordinate implementation and data analysis of AI surveillance programs nationally.
- Provide periodic summaries of AI surveillance for wild birds in the United States.
- Provide periodic recommendations for AI surveillance in wild birds based on previous sampling efforts and changes in virus epidemiology.
- Facilitate communication and coordination among state and federal agencies for contingency planning and other preparations for the appearance of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus in wild birds in North America.

One of the first coordinated efforts by the Steering Committee was to assist with organizing the workshop entitled, *Early Detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Alaska*, which was held in Anchorage, Alaska in 2006. The goal was to discuss surveillance strategies and plans for the early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Alaska.

Since the Workshop, knowledge gained by researchers about the disease has increased significantly, and although some of the information contained on this site is now out of date, the workshop sponsors feel it has historic value and should be preserved. It captures a snapshot in time, recording what was known about avian influenza and the standard operating procedures that were used at the time for detecting and managing the disease.

## Disclaimer

***The workshop sponsors, as well as the NBII Wildlife Disease Information Node are not responsible for controlling the individual usage of information on this site. Some information within this site is out of date. Its contents should be referenced for historical purposes only.***

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<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Interior, 2006, An early detection system for Asian H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild migratory birds: U.S. interagency strategic plan, 88p. Accessed June 24 2009, at <http://www.usda.gov/documents/wildbirdstrategicplanpdf.pdf>