HPAI: Federal Planning Efforts

USAHA
Transmissible Diseases of Poultry Committee
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Patricia Fox,  DVM,MPH
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
Topics

• Planning for fall: What we learned and what we changed.

• New processes and procedures: streamlining the response.
Fall 2015 HPAI Plan

• Published September 18, 2015, but is a living document.
• Based on lessons learned; supplements but does not replace the “Red Book.”
• Assumes worst-case scenario with no zoonotic spread.
• 4 Key areas covered:

- Preventing or Reducing Future Outbreaks
- Enhanced Preparedness
- Improved and Streamlined Response Capabilities
- Preparing for the Potential Use of AI Vaccines
Preventing or reducing future outbreaks: Biosecurity

• Some risk factors identified in epidemiology studies.
• Educational material and biosecurity self-assessment developed with ISU and USPEA.
• Interim rule to be published:
  – Self-certify that biosecurity procedures were in place and followed in order to receive future indemnity.
  – First step of stronger accountability.
Preventing or reducing future outbreaks: Wild bird surveillance

- Interagency Strategic Plan for wild bird HPAI surveillance published June 2015.
- 40,000 samples to be collected between July 2015 and July 2016.
- Stakeholder announcements and web posting if any new findings occur.
Enhanced Preparedness

• Improved State & Industry Response Capabilities
  – State and Industry Surveys.

• Enhanced diagnostic laboratory preparedness
  – NAHLN labs reviewed and updated staffing plans, surge capacity plans, and barcoding and shipping protocols.

• Increased capacity and training for Federal personnel deployments
  – Reconstituted and expanded IMTs.
  – Hiring 350 VMOs, AHTs and support personnel.
  – Continued use of NAHERC.
Enhanced Preparedness (cont.)

• Improved capacity for depopulation and disposal
  – Compiled Federal and State rules on carcass disposal.
  – Compiled maps on landfill, incineration & rendering facilities.
  – Improving NVS inventory of depopulation and disposal equipment; assessed water and carbon sources for composting; updated inventory of PPE and other response supplies.

• Improved public communications
  – Hiring additional PIOs; Message development and dissemination.
  – Assignment of a site manager to each affected facility.
Improved & Streamlined Response Capabilities

• Modeling studies
  – Rapid detection, depopulation and disposal has greatest impact on reducing outbreak size and duration.

• Increased speed of detecting affected premises
  – Presumptive positives at NAHLN lab sufficient for depopulation.
  – Implementing antigen capture immunoassay to identify suspect cases; could depopulate if clinical signs present.

• Goal of depopulating affected flocks within 24 hours
  – Foam or CO2 are preferred methods, but we are prepared to use ventilation shutdown.
Improved & Streamlined Response Capabilities (cont.)

• Cleaning and disinfection
  – Dry cleaning and heating preferred for virus elimination.

• Streamlining payments
  – Continual reevaluation of indemnity calculators.
  – Electronic submission of flock inventories.
  – Interim rule for split indemnity payments.
  – Flat (per bird) rate being developed for C/D (dry cleaning/heat) payments.
Streamlined Indemnity Processes

• Owner and grower (if applicable) sign an **Appraisal and Indemnity Request Form**
  – The form includes self certification that a biosecurity plan was in place and being followed when the outbreak occurred
  – The producer agrees to current calculator values for the birds
  – The producer agrees to the process (interim rule language) for the splitting of payments between owners and growers
  – The producer agrees to provide documentation to allow verification of inventory and expected contract value for the flock

**This is the only document needed to depopulate. A signed 1-23 form or flock plan will NOT be required**
Payment Processes Streamlined

- One document outlining all of the payment processes
- Flat rate payment for virus elimination (formally C&D) based on number of birds and facility type.
- Use of VS 1-23s for all items that must be destroyed (birds, eggs, feed, corn, items that cannot be C&D’d)
- Very limited use of Cooperative Compliance Agreements (only for depopulation and disposal activities)
Preparing for the Potential Use of AI Vaccines

- Two companies awarded contracts for vaccine manufacture on October 13, 2015
- Additional “requests for proposals” (RFPs) to be released quarterly
- No current decision to use vaccination in a future HPAI outbreak.
- Use would require careful consideration of the efficacy of the vaccine, any impacts of using HPAI vaccine in the field, and the potential trade impacts.
- Vaccination, if approved, would be part of an eradication effort, not a replacement for it.
Avian Influenza Information

• Go to: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/aiupdates

• Also linked from the AI icon on the APHIS homepage (www.aphis.usda.gov)
A final thought...

In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Questions?