

**Avian Health Business Plan**  
**Fiscal Years 2017 to 2020**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**  
**Veterinary Services**

**I. Program Description**

**a. Program Objectives**

The overall objective of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) Avian Health Program is to safeguard the U.S. poultry industry while facilitating agricultural trade in poultry and poultry products.

Core objectives:

- Objective 1: Support national avian health activities, including the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and the Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS) programs, and address poultry disease issues as needed
- Objective 2: Emergency and zoonotic preparedness, prevention & response
- Objective 3: Communication with stakeholders
- Objective 4: Comprehensive and integrated disease surveillance in poultry

**b. Program Components**

The Avian Health Program components are the NPIP (which includes Mycoplasma and Salmonella disease programs); the avian influenza (AI) prevention and control program (which includes the NPIP and LBMS AI programs); emergency and zoonotic preparedness, prevention, and response; and comprehensive poultry disease surveillance.

The goals of the AI prevention and control program are to: (1) quickly diagnose, control, and prevent the spread of all H5 and H7 AI subtypes; (2) improve biosecurity, sanitation, and disease control in commercial poultry, LBMS, and high-risk poultry sectors (auctions, small sales, flea markets, swap meets, farmers' markets, feed stores, botanicas, custom exempt poultry facilities, and backyard or hobby flocks); and (3) minimize the effects of AI on the U.S. LBMS and commercial poultry industry.

APHIS has a number of domestic and international responsibilities in carrying out its AI-associated avian health initiatives, including preventing the entry of HPAI into the United States, providing technical leadership in animal health around the world, improving U.S. readiness to respond to an outbreak of AI, maintaining surveillance in various avian populations (including wild birds and birds in zoological parks), and reducing the impact of AI outbreaks on the U.S. agricultural

economy. VS coordinates these efforts with other APHIS units (including Wildlife Services, International Services), and others (including U.S. Customs and Border Protection) to support APHIS goals.

Other Avian Health Program activities include national studies on the health and management of domestic poultry populations through its National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) program; emergency and zoonotic preparedness, prevention and response; and conducting comprehensive poultry disease surveillance.

### **c. Funding**

Poultry health programs are funded through the avian health budget line. APHIS is operating under a continuing resolution until April 28, 2017. FY 2016 funding was \$55,340,000.

## **II. Value of the Avian Health Program**

The poultry health programs managed by APHIS are critical to support the U.S. poultry industry and to mitigate risks to human health, the domestic food supply, and international trade. The United States is the world's largest producer of poultry breeding stock and poultry meat, and the second largest egg producer. The United States is also the largest exporter of poultry breeding stock and turkey meat and second largest exporter of other poultry meat. The U.S. poultry industry (primarily meat-type chickens, meat-type turkeys, and table egg-layers) has the second highest value of livestock at the level when commodities leave the farm, second only to cattle and calf production. The combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and sales from chickens in 2015 was \$48 billion. The meat-type chicken (broiler) industry is the largest and most valuable of the U.S. poultry sub-industries. The value of broilers produced during 2015 was \$28.7 billion. The United States is the world's largest producer and consumer of turkey meat. The value of turkeys produced during 2015 was \$5.71 billion. At the farm level, the value of U.S. egg production, which includes table eggs and hatching eggs, was \$13.5 billion in 2015.

Primary breeders are the foundation of a U.S. poultry industry that provides an economic output of \$441 billion. Primary breeder company exports are estimated at approximately \$250 million. Approximately 60 percent of the world's broiler genetics originate from U.S. primary breeders.

## **FY 2017 Implementation**

**Objective 1:** Support national avian health activities, including the NPIP and the LBMS programs, and address poultry disease issues as needed

**Strategy 1.1:** Provide a cooperative Industry-State-Federal program through which new diagnostic technology can be effectively applied to the improvement of poultry and poultry products throughout the country.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- For NPIP, implement AI testing requirements as published in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR), parts 145, 146, and 147.
- For LBMS, oversee implementation of the LBMS Program Standards.
- Indemnify affected flocks, where necessary as published in 9 CFR parts 53 and 56.

**Strategy 1.2:** Ensure NPIP authorized laboratories meet regulatory requirements.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Ensure that each authorized laboratory has completed appropriate proficiency testing and continuing education requirements.
- Perform laboratory site visits where regulatory noncompliance issues are observed.
- Complete the Service Review of all NPIP authorized laboratories, which is required every 3 years, to ensure compliance with the authorized laboratory provisions. Notify laboratories of their status following the Service Review (compliant, contingent compliance, probation).

**Strategy 1.3:** Coordinate NPIP diagnostic workshops.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Conduct a workshop for authorized NPIP laboratory officials for Salmonella Isolation and Identification at the Georgia Poultry Laboratory in Gainesville, GA; the Diagnosis of Avian Mycoplasma workshop at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center in Athens, GA; and the Diagnosis of Avian Influenza workshop (location TBD).
- Maintain list of attendees to prioritize attendance to meet training requirements.

**Strategy 1.4:** Implement the NPIP Biosecurity Principles.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Publish a notice of availability for the NPIP Biosecurity Principles Program Standards in the Federal Register for comment.
- Develop an audit form and guideline related to the Biosecurity Principles, with input of the General Conference Committee, for use in conducting audits.
- Obtain industry feedback on the audit form and guideline.
- Train Official State Agencies (OSAs) on the proper methods to conduct audits of the Biosecurity Principles during the national meeting of OSAs in May 2017 in Portland, ME.

**Objective 2:** Emergency and zoonotic preparedness, prevention, and response.

**Strategy 2.1:** Ensure preparedness.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Work with States to review H5/H7 LPAI Initial State Response and Containment Plans (ISRCs) per 9 CFR 56. VS will initiate reviews in 2017, utilizing a rolling schedule to ensure that formal review is completed at least once every 5 years.
- Participate in the development, updating, or exercise of operational response plans, policies, standard operating procedures, and other guidance documents that support disease eradication or business continuity activities.
- Increase communication and decision-making processes related to current program issues with Federal, State, Tribal, and industry officials.
- Evaluate and propose changes to the NPIP provisions that enhance Salmonella, Mycoplasma, and H5/H7 AI surveillance.
- Provide public education on zoonotic disease threats (such as HPAI, Salmonellosis, and virulent Newcastle disease).
- Develop and/or provide educational opportunities and materials that enhance understanding of zoonotic and emerging diseases/issues at the animal-human-environment interface, as well as outline roles and responsibilities for stakeholders and partners.
- Maintain laboratory capacity for detection of H5/H7 AI in coordination with the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL). This may include: personnel, diagnostic kits, reagents, consumable laboratory supplies, equipment, training and proficiency testing for technicians.
- Stand up a subcommittee under the Secretary's Advisory Committee for Animal Health to address the issue of human salmonella infections associated with contact with live poultry.

**Strategy 2.2:** Appropriately respond and contain AI and other emerging poultry diseases as needed.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Respond to and contain findings of H5/H7 AI when detected in NPIP flocks, backyard flocks, and the LBMS in the United States.
- Conduct poultry trace backs and epidemiological investigations to determine the probable source of H5/H7 AI-infected birds.
- Participate in H5/H7 AI emergency response exercises.
- Conduct epidemiological investigations on new and emerging diseases in poultry, including trace back and trace forward investigations.
- Finalize and implement the Emerging Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan.
- Conduct foreign animal disease (FAD) and emergency disease investigation in avian species
- Train FAD diagnosticians to conduct high-quality FAD investigations and

to document them in real time in EMRS.

**Strategy 2.3:** Implement the primary breeder compartmentalization program.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Publish finalization notice of the U.S. Poultry Primary Breeder Compartmentalization program in the Federal Register.
- Review, consider, and address comments received regarding the compartmentalization program.
- Work with APHIS International Services to answer trading partner questions and assist with negotiations.
- Develop and implement a compartmentalization auditor training course, including a certification process for the auditors which meet or exceed specific course requirements.
- Review and approve/deny applications from primary breeding companies to become a registered compartment; assign a certified auditor to review components; and certify any compartment components which meet or exceed the requirements according to the Compartmentalization Program.

**Objective 3:** Communicate with Stakeholders.

**Strategy 3.1:** Host meetings with stakeholders.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Host an informal poultry stakeholder meeting during the International Production and Processing Expo in Atlanta, GA on February 1, to discuss the avian health business plan and other matters pertaining to the poultry industry.
- Host the annual LBMS working group meeting for the LBMS AI Prevention and Control Program on February 22-23 in San Antonio, Texas.
- Host webinars with states and industry on the revised processes and procedures for HPAI to ensure a quick, seamless, and unified response to any detection.

**Strategy 3.2:** Conduct education and outreach.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Conduct an LBMS Continuing Education Training Course.
- Increase awareness of and educate a wide variety of stakeholders (including large commercial premises, noncommercial poultry enthusiasts, distributors/haulers/wholesalers, backyard flocks, hobby flocks, auctions, and small production flocks) about AI and the role good biosecurity plays through such programs as “Biosecurity for Birds” and “Defend the Flock” campaigns.
- Conduct training for international, federal, state, and field veterinarians and other responders on HPAI response including training in biosecurity, depopulation, disposal, cleaning and disinfection, and indemnity activities.
- Educate the general public on the importance of the NPIP and the LBMS LPAI H5/H7 Control Program and the benefits of being a

- participant.
- Implement an overarching strategy for communication and information sharing with stakeholders/partners.

#### **Objective 4: Comprehensive and integrated disease surveillance in poultry.**

##### **Strategy 4.1: Surveillance and detection.**

###### ***FY 2017 Activities***

- For the NPIP program:
  - Conduct NPIP certification testing for *Salmonella pullorum*, *Salmonella gallinarum* and *Salmonella enteritidis*.
  - Conduct NPIP certification testing for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma synoviae*, and *Mycoplasma meleagridis*.
  - Conduct active and passive surveillance to determine the H5/H7 AI status of commercial poultry participating in the NPIP.
  - Conduct the ELISA, AGID, and USDA-approved antigen capture immunoassays at authorized laboratories of the NPIP and the RRT-PCR tests for AI at primary breeding labs which are also authorized laboratories of the NPIP.
  - Through cooperative agreement funding, support laboratory costs for conducting AI clinical diagnostic surveillance, i.e., examining all submitted cases of unexplained respiratory disease, egg production drop, and mortality for AI by an approved serological test, virus isolation and identification, and approved viral RNA and antigen detection tests.
- For the LBMS AI program:
  - Provide laboratory resources and personnel to inspect and collect samples for active and passive surveillance to determine H5/H7 AI status of poultry and environments
  - Provide laboratory resources and personnel to support other LBMS surveillance activities in LBMS production flocks, auctions, swap meets, dealers/haulers/wholesalers premises, small sales, fairs and shows, flea markets, backyard/hobby flocks, public exhibitions, and approximately 250 retail markets.
- For both the NPIP and LBMS AI Program:
  - Conduct passive surveillance, including response to poultry mortalities and sick bird reports/calls in order to prevent and control H5/H7 AI subtypes from entering and spreading in commercial poultry, LBMS and backyard poultry flocks.

**Objective 5:** Support international trade of poultry and poultry products.

**Strategy 5.1:** Expand and retain export trade markets.

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Continue discussions with key trading partners, toward establishing regionalization agreements to limit import restrictions during future outbreaks of avian influenza

**Strategy 5.2:** Revision of Avian Import Regulations 9 CFR 93.100- 93.200s

***FY 2017 Activities***

- Review avian import regulations to identify needed changes based on progress in laboratory technology, animal husbandry, and industry practices.

### **III. Out-year strategies and activities**

The NPIP program is built on more than 82 years of cooperation among industry, State, and Federal partners. Current progress within the AI program is due, in large part, to the provision of personnel and other resources by VS to establish disease control at various levels of the supply continuum. The AI prevention and control program requires ongoing State, Federal, and industry collaboration. If poultry stakeholders do not participate and implement this voluntary program, it could lead to costly outbreaks of AI in the LBMS and commercial poultry industry compartments. As we continue these programs, however, APHIS will examine ways to fund these programs to provide greater flexibility in dealing with future disease challenges, and maintain our cooperative approach for a program capable of addressing avian health issues beyond AI.

***FY 2018 Implementation***

- Continue performing activities as in FY 2017.
- Conduct an LBMS Continuing Education Training Course.
- Continue compartmentalization negotiations with trading partners.
- Host the 2018 NPIP Biennial Conference in conjunction with the General Conference Committee (GCC) meeting and Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Nashville, TN.
- Publish any necessary changes to NPIP based on changes approved at the 2018 Biennial Conference.
- Host an informal stakeholder meeting at the International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) in Atlanta, GA, to discuss the avian health business plan and other matters pertaining to the poultry industry.

***FY 2019 Implementation***

- Continue performing activities as in FY 2018.
- Continue compartmentalization negotiations with trading partners and host the second compartmentalization auditor training workshop.
- Host the annual LBMS working group meeting for the LBMS H5/H7 AI

Prevention and Control Program.

- Host the NPIP OSA meeting and GCC meeting.
- Host an informal stakeholder meeting at the International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) in Atlanta, GA, to discuss the avian health business plan and other matters pertaining to the poultry industry.
- Implement auditing of the Biosecurity Principles.

***FY 2020 Implementation***

- Continue performing activities as in FY 2019.
- Host the 2020 NPIP Biennial Conference in conjunction with the GCC meeting and Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
- Continue compartmentalization negotiations with trading partners.
- Host the annual LBMS working group meeting for the LBMS H5/H7 AI Prevention and Control Program.
- Host the informal stakeholder meeting at the IPPE in Atlanta, GA, to discuss the avian health business plan and other matters pertaining to the poultry industry.