Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Appraisal and Compensation:
What You Need To Know If You Have an HPAI-Infected Bird Flock

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) shares the financial burden of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) with you. When an outbreak occurs, indemnity payments are an important part of the disease response. Compensating you and other affected producers for some losses and costs gives you needed support in a difficult time. It can also encourage cooperation overall in the disease response, including early reporting of disease signs. This helps stop the outbreak and restore production as fast as possible.

The Animal Health Protection Act authorizes USDA to make these payments. Our goal is to appraise your flock, begin processing the paperwork needed for indemnity payments, and start depopulation work within 24 hours of detecting HPAI on your farm.

What We Cover

USDA will compensate an individual for birds that must be destroyed using species-specific calculators. We also pay for some other losses, such as eggs that must be destroyed.

We also pay a standard amount for virus elimination activities (cleanup work). This amount is based on a flat per-bird rate (separate rates for caged- versus floor-reared operations) that depends on the preferred method of cleaning and disinfection to eliminate HPAI from the farm.

USDA does not, however, cover all losses from HPAI as an insurance program would. For example, we cannot offer indemnity for income or production losses during downtime or other business disruptions due to HPAI. Also, indemnity is not available for farms out of production because of HPAI at nearby properties.

Paperwork and Payment

In most cases, the process for making an indemnity claim is fairly simple. First, you’ll need to agree in writing to accept fair market value for the birds. This is done via an appraisal and indemnity request form. In order to receive indemnity, the owner or grower must certify that a biosecurity plan was in place at the time of the HPAI detection. In 2016, APHIS issued an interim rule that allows for split payments between owners and contract growers. Once the form has been signed, we can begin depopulation work and move forward with the claims process.
Then, USDA prepares the full appraisal and related paperwork with the compensation amount. Once you sign the paperwork and return it to the State or USDA animal health officials assisting you, USDA can make the indemnity payment.

USDA deposits compensation funds directly into your bank account. You can expect to see the deposit approximately 2 to 3 weeks after you have given USDA the account information needed to process the payment. In addition to your banking information, you'll need to obtain a free “DUNS” number and register through the Federal Government’s System for Award Management (SAM).

DUNS stands for “Data Universal Numbering System;” the company Dun & Bradstreet created and manages this system. It’s used as the standard business identifier for Federal electronic commerce. To generate a DUNS number, go to https://iupdate.dnb.com/iUpdate/companylookup.htm and complete the five listed steps.


**Actions You Need To Take**

- Respond promptly and completely to USDA requests for information. The list at the right shows the main information we’ll need for appraisal and indemnity paperwork.
- Carefully review the completed paperwork. Let your case manager know any concerns.
- Sign the paperwork as soon as you are ready, and return it to your case manager.
- Check your bank account once indemnity payment is received and confirm that the correct amount was given. If there are any concerns or delays beyond 4 weeks, let us know right away.
- Continue to maintain strict biosecurity on your farm.

**For More Information**

If you have specific questions, talk with your case manager or call the nearest USDA office (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/sprs_contact/field_office_contact_info.pdf).

Biosecurity information, including an online tool kit, can be found here https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.


**INFORMATION NEEDED FOR APPRAISAL AND INDEMNITY**

Below is a list of what’s needed for the appraisal and indemnity paperwork. Your case manager will help you gather this information and verify details with others, such as your flock veterinarian, if needed.

- Type of flock (turkey, chicken, layer, breeder, backyard, etc.)
- Age, sex, and number of each type of bird
- Number of barns and number of birds in each barn
- Bird mortality records over the last 2 weeks
- Eggs on hand/current egg inventory (if applicable)
- Onset date of disease signs (if present)
- Date of facility quarantine
- Reason for test (area surveillance, pre-movement, National Poultry Improvement Plan, sick-bird call)
- County where your farm is located
- Premises identification number, or PIN (location of poultry, not company home)
- Global positioning system coordinates (latitude/longitude) and 911 address for your farm
- Name of your facility/complex
- Claimant name and address
- Confirmation of mortgage status
- Appraisal date (date value is assigned to the birds or eggs)
- Name of diagnostic lab testing samples

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