

Poultry Health  
Committee Report  
2006 Mid-Year Report  
August 24, 2006



**Chair: Dr. Andrea Miles**  
**Vice Chair: Vacant**

The committee continues to focus on potential benefits to the poultry industry from participation in NIAA, with the aim of attracting additional participation in the committee and the organization. In addition, the committee is currently responding to industry needs in the face of impending spread of H5N1 avian influenza into the United States.

1. How may the poultry industry benefit by participation in NIAA?
  - a. Assistance with production of educational materials.
  - b. Further support of poultry industry recommendations to USDA/APHIS/VS, as through USAHA.
2. Action Item from the April Meeting:

Poultry Health wants to provide a forum for States and the USDA/APHIS/VS to discuss high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) response plans. Discussions and/or exercises will be used to test plans for completeness and then come to general consensus for a unified nationwide response to HPAI. We proposed that NIAA sponsor a "HPAI Response Plan Refinement Workshop" this summer; however with the loss of Glenn Slack lost momentum. USDA/APHIS/VS was supportive of this effort, Sebastian Heath would be the best contact.
3. Position Statements:

**61 (2005, action item added): Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Programs**

**POSITION STATEMENT (summary):** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the development of risk-based surveillance for Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza across all segments of the poultry industry. To be most effective, NIAA encourages USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to work with local/state animal health officials to customize LPAI education and outreach initiatives.

**Action Needed:** NIAA Staff work with States and USDA/APHIS to develop education information templates on biosecurity information for upland gamebird and organic farm owners. These templates should be distributed by NIAA back to states, so that they can edit as needed with their own contact and other state specific information. **Need to see if information has been developed by Extension or other groups, if not ask AAAP Education Committee to help produce these materials. Ask USDA to provide funding or to print materials**

**2006 #10: Use of Foam for Mass Depopulation of Poultry**

**Background:** Fire fighting foam is a new technology for mass depopulation of poultry. Research and field applications have shown that it has many advantages over existing technologies, including decreased bird stress, decreased human exposure to diseased animals and dangerous gases, as well as decreased risk of disease spread. Mass depopulation of birds must be performed in a humane manner while minimizing human health and biosecurity risks. Reports indicate that this technology has shorter kill times,

requires fewer workers, less health and safety concerns, and improves biosecurity compared to existing mass depopulation methods.

**Resolution:** The NIAA requests that the AVMA move promptly in issuing policy on the use of fire fighting foam in mass depopulation of poultry.

**Action Needed:** NIAA contact the AVMA with this request. **AVMA has not issued policy, they consider this to be depopulation, not euthanasia and thus are currently refusing to take a stand. USDA/APHIS/Animal Care may issue policy on use of foam for Asian H5N1 depopulation. The poultry industry needs either AVMA or USDA support so that equipment can be purchased in advance of an outbreak of high or low path H5 or H7 avian influenza. Thus a letter writing campaign has been launched, but without much affect. Need more political support.**

**2006#2:** Quarantine (Section 18) Exemption To Use Bleach, Citric Acid, Soaps, and Detergents Against Avian Influenza

**Resolution:** The NIAA encourages USDA/APHIS to collect efficacy data for soap, detergent, bleach (sodium hypochlorite) and citric acid (at least 4% concentration) against avian influenza. If testing shows that these agents are efficacious, this data should then be submitted to the EPA in request of a quarantine (Section 18) exemption for USDA, state agencies and the poultry industry, to utilize these decontamination agents.

**Action Needed:** NIAA contact APHIS with above request. **This research is under contract at the University of Delaware.**

**2006#3:** Amendment to the National Poultry Organic Poultry Program to provide for confinement during outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza

**Resolution:**

NIAA encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) work with the National Organic Program (NOP) to change section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP regulations by eliminating the words "Access to the outdoors" as a requirement for production of USDA certified organic poultry. As amended, Section 205.239 reads: "(a) The producer must establish and maintain livestock living conditions, which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals including: access to the outdoors shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate and the environment."

**Action Needed:** NIAA contact the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA/AMS) with this request. **Unaware of any action on this resolution.**