

# 2017-2018 NIAA Resolutions

## Poultry Committee

**Mission: To work in cooperation with and build consensus among poultry organizations, to share educational materials and advance solutions for healthy, safe and secure poultry production.**

### **POU1 Need for Funding for Rapid Development of Additional Methods for Depopulation of Poultry**

**BACKGROUND:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) applauds the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) support over the last year towards the development of practical and humane solutions for depopulation of poultry as is needed in response to disasters and diseases that cannot be controlled through other methods. However, some gaps still exist in our response capability. Adequate solutions for depopulation of caged layers have not been developed sufficiently to address both the needs of timely disease containment and limiting the exposure of personnel performing the depopulation. While practical solutions are important for the U.S. poultry industry, USDA/APHIS depopulation policy should find accord with other depopulation standards (e.g. European Union) where possible but only after consideration of the different husbandry systems and larger poultry numbers found in the U.S.

**RESOLUTION:** The NIAA compliments the USDA/APHIS on the success thus far of the program to fund and implement policy in support of new practical methods and humane solutions for depopulation of poultry. The NIAA requests continued financial support for rapid development of additional methods for depopulation of caged layers and other challenging populations of birds (waterfowl, turkeys and upland game birds).

Adopted: 2007 | Amended: 2009 | Amended: 2012 | Reaffirmed: 2017

### **POU2 Amendment to the National Organic Poultry Program to Provide for Confinement During Outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**

**BACKGROUND:** The American public expressed a desire for organic foods and formal certification program for such foods. The National Organic Program (NOP) was formed to meet this need and became regulation in October 2001. There are many distinctive and unique requirements for the production and processing of organic foods including poultry. Section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP requires that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic poultry should have “access to the outdoors” during their production life. This outdoor access enhances the likelihood that such poultry will have direct contact with migratory and wild birds as well as other animals. This requirement for outdoor access by a department of the official agricultural agency of this country, USDA, seems incongruous at best. Disease control is a priority for certified organic poultry as well as conventionally reared poultry. In over 50 years of progress, the poultry industries of this country have moved their flocks inside, and this action has contributed significantly to the improvement in health of the nation’s

chicken and turkey flocks. Avian influenza (AI) has been a long-standing threat to the health of our poultry and now takes on new potential public health and media perception identities. Migratory and wild birds are known carriers of AI virus, and as such, contact between them and domestic poultry must be prevented.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services/Veterinary Services work with the Agricultural Marketing Service regarding the NOP to change Section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP regulations by amending the requirement related to “access to the outdoors.” 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 and in such a manner that does not compromise food safety and animal health.

Adopted: 2006 | Amended: 2011 | Reaffirmed: 2016 | Reaffirmed: 2017