

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12      APPROVED**

**SOURCE:                      COMMITTEE ON POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES**

**SUBJECT MATTER:          Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Vaccination Update**

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**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) is thankful the United States Department of Agriculture involved stakeholders in discussions around highly pathogenic avian influenza vaccination strategy in commercial poultry. USAHA encourages the Secretary of Agriculture to release to the United States poultry industry any available next steps toward an H5 influenza vaccination strategy (e.g., surveillance plans) in poultry.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Following the United States Secretary of Agriculture’s announcement of a five-pronged plan to combat highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) convened a series of working groups to discuss vaccination, surveillance, and other critical components of H5 HPAI control. The industry is grateful for the collaborative spirit and forward momentum the USDA has demonstrated over the past several months in evaluating vaccination as a tool for preventing HPAI infections in commercial poultry.

The continued threat of HPAI presents significant concerns for animal welfare, human health, and mental well-being, especially as wild bird migration is underway, dairy cattle continue to test positive, and commercial poultry flocks face ongoing depopulation due to virus detection. Therefore, the release of a national vaccination strategy—one that fully considers trade implications—is urgently needed.