

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Innovation Grand Challenge Update

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association is thankful for the United States Department of Agriculture’s Five-Pronged Approach to address Avian Influenza and urges the Secretary of Agriculture to expeditiously announce the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Poultry Innovation Grand Challenge project selections and release funding.

Background Information:

In March, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the Innovation Grand Challenge, a competitive funding initiative aimed at soliciting methods for the prevention and control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). This includes vaccine and therapeutic development, as well as other science-based approaches to disease mitigation and response.

The USDA indicated that awards would be finalized by fall 2025, with projects eligible to begin no earlier than August 1, 2025. However, the agency has not yet provided updates on the status of these project proposals. Recent disruptions in federal operations, including the government shutdown, may be impeding progress on this initiative.

Continued action is urgently needed to strengthen national capabilities for HPAI prevention, detection, and response—particularly as wild bird migration intensifies, H5 continues to be detected in dairy cattle, and commercial poultry flocks face ongoing depopulation due to virus detection.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

APHIS announced the selected projects for the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Poultry Innovation Grand Challenge on November 6, 2025, and notified all applicants of their results.

Most funded projects began on February 2, 2026. More information can be found at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/funding/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-poultry-innovation-grand-challenge>.