
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN STAFFING

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, within 30 days from the lifting of the government shut down, re-establish a permanent Senior Coordinator of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is the backbone of the entire poultry industry in the United States, encompassing program diseases of significant relevance to multiple sectors—including broiler, layer, and breeder operations for chickens, as well as turkeys, waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans), pheasants, quail, peafowl, guineas, chukars, grouse, ostriches, emus, rheas, and cassowaries. All 50 states currently participate in the NPIP, which facilitates both domestic and international commerce of poultry products, due to the widespread recognition of its programs. This is especially important in the global arena for diseases such as pullorum/typhoid, *Mycoplasma*, and avian influenza, for which importing countries often waive testing requirements for source flocks in good standing with the corresponding NPIP program.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service (*Poultry & Eggs – Sector at a Glance*), the NPIP National Office supports an industry valued at just over \$70 billion in 2024. Its services include frequent updates to NPIP programs, laboratory procedures, testing methodologies, proficiency testing, biosecurity protocols, and reporting. Notably, the NPIP’s avian influenza programs form the foundation of national surveillance for this disease—without which our testing schedule would be insufficient.

All of these critical activities are managed by just five staff members, making the NPIP one of the most fiscally efficient programs within the USDA. However, NPIP has been without its Senior Coordinator for an extended period—six months at the time of this submission—without any stated reason. This prolonged absence places an unfair burden on the NPIP staff, while also exposing the poultry industry to potential risks associated with an understaffed program.

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 recognizes the critical role of NPIP and the importance of the NPIP Senior Coordinator position. APHIS is prioritizing the hiring of a permanent NPIP Senior Coordinator and will consider input from the NPIP General Conference Committee when screening and selecting candidates to ensure the relevant poultry expertise is captured.