WORLDWIDE RESPONSE AND COORDINATION EFFORTS

Eric Hoffman
Associate Deputy Administrator
International Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
USDA
Avian Influenza (AI):
U.S. International Efforts

Dr. Eric Hoffman, Associate Deputy Administrator,
International Services
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
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Protecting American Agriculture
Points to Remember

- AI is first and foremost an animal disease.
- The best way to prevent an outbreak starts with eliminating the virus at its source.
- Fighting AI is an international effort.
Asian Outbreak as of 2/13/06

National Wildlife Health Center

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European Outbreak as of 2/13/06
African Outbreak as of 2/12/06
Hot Spots as of 2/13/06
U.S. Commitment to Global AI Efforts

- The Federal Government is actively engaged in global AI eradication efforts.
- $25 million in supplemental funds has been appropriated for AI eradication in Asia.
- President’s FY 2007 budget includes funds to improve overseas preparedness and response.
- USDA works internationally with the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development.
USDA International AI Objectives:

- Facilitate international partnerships to prevent, address, and contain HPAI.

- Collaborate on research, analysis of information, and promotion of biosecurity technologies to minimize risks of transmission.

- Promote strategies to improve transparency and timeliness in case reporting.

- Develop trade and economic contingency plans.
USDA Response in Asia

Examples include:

- Training, technical assistance, and scientific capacity-building efforts in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia
- HPAI virus research and vaccine effectiveness
- HPAI surveillance in domestic and wild birds
- Plans to station personnel in 6 Southeast Asian countries
Other International Efforts

Examples:

- Emergency response teams sent to Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia
- Consultant sent to Ukraine, Cambodia
- Technical experts, rapid test equipment sent to Romania
USDA International Training Efforts

- “Train-the-trainer” activities
- In-country consultancy
  - Live bird market management workshops
  - Domestic poultry surveillance pilot programs
- International Workshops at USDA’s National Veterinary Services Laboratories
Long-Term Strategy: A New Proposal

- A coordinated, international approach
- To be implemented through
  - The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)
  - The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
Premises of Proposed Strategy

- HPAI pathogen levels must be reduced at source—in birds
- A dual approach is needed:
  - Eradicate disease
  - Improve animal health infrastructure
- Sustainable change requires affected countries to elevate priority of animal health services
- Eliminating disease and strengthening infrastructure requires coordination + definition of leadership and support functions
Plan Components

- Leadership under OIE and FAO
- Consistent Assessment of Animal Health Services Capacity + H5N1 Eradication and Control Plans
- Establishment of World Bank Trust Fund
Phases of Participation

- Meeting with officials of affected country to explain methodology, approach, opportunities, obligations
- Implementation of Assessments
- Periodic re-assessments and reporting on progress
Implementation Steps

- Evaluation using standardized methodology
- Carefully planned attempts to improve animal health services capacity
- Prioritized list of needs
- Country-by-country response
Benefits of Coordinated International Approach

- Strengthened international partnerships, laying foundation for international animal health infrastructure
- Resources and infrastructure will be established to deal with future pandemic threats
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Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
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Questions?