

American Association of Avian Pathologists H5 Influenza Position Statements (revised 4.22.25)

The American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) works to advance science-based knowledge, expertise, and education on poultry health, welfare, and food safety. To minimize the impact of H5 influenza ("H5") on the health and welfare of poultry and to protect human health, there are several policy issues and gaps that we believe need to be immediately addressed by regulatory and industry partners.

- Risk-based national surveillance to efficiently generate the data needed to understand H5 influenza risks in all potential hosts,
 - Current issue: The narrow focus of testing only lactating dairy cows moving interstate and unpasteurized milk is inadequate and overlooks the transmission risk that other classes of cattle pose to poultry. These approaches do not sufficiently identify risk in a timely manner.
 - Request: Establish a control area and conduct active surveillance of all animals around any H5 influenza positive premises.
- A consistent, risk-based national strategy that adheres to science- and evidence-based principles of disease control to reduce further spread of H5 influenza.
 - Current issue: A holistic control strategy is lacking and has led to continual spread of the virus.
 - Current issue: Uncertainty around the consequences of H5 detection in novel species (e.g., swine, beef cattle) acts as a deterrent to expanded surveillance; transparent, science-based response policies are essential to facilitate broader monitoring and effective control.
 - Request: Establish a national control strategy that includes all potential hosts of H5 influenza.
- Epidemiologic studies and tools to understand H5 ecology among susceptible populations
 - Current issue: Insufficient data has been generated to identify key transmission pathways and associated risk factors for H5 influenza spread among susceptible species.



- Request: Review the available surveillance tools and how data are collected, utilized, interpreted, and communicated as part of a national surveillance program.
- Resolution of concerns that impede the utilization of vaccine needed to control the spread of H5 influenza
 - Current issue: The extensive and rapid dissemination of H5 influenza in dairy herds has created a new source of virus in livestock populations. Vaccine is an important tool to mitigate disease impacts.
 - Current issue: Current trade agreements preclude the use of H5 vaccine in the U.S. due to export market impacts.
 - Request: Renegotiate current trade agreements based on the unprecedented spread of H5 influenza across the globe.
 - Request: Establish a collaborative process to develop a national vaccine strategy that: 1) includes all impacted species, 2) defines when a specific population would be vaccinated, 3) how vaccinated animals would be surveilled, and 4) when vaccine use would be discontinued
- Appropriately resourced response capacity is needed to minimize the long-term impacts of H5 influenza on human health, food security and economic sustainability.
 - Current issue: The occurrence of H5 influenza in a new livestock species increases the demand for approved lab capacity, producer financial support, and veterinary resources.
 - Request: Evaluate the narrow allocation of workload to the current network of USDA-approved labs to expand capacity to meet demand as needed.

A consistent and comprehensive strategy for H5 influenza management is essential to ensure the health and well-being of animals in all sectors and to mitigate economic impacts. This will also help reduce the risk of the virus potentially spreading to humans, safeguarding public health.