

HPAI ACT

Healthy Poultry Assistance and Indemnification Act

Senator Coons (D-DE), Senator Wicker (R-MS), and
the Senate Chicken Caucus

What's the Problem?

- Last year, the American poultry industry was hit with its worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).
 - outbreak affected 47 states
 - hundreds of millions of dollars in losses to poultry producers
- drove inflation on Americans' most affordable animal protein sources

Next Steps?

- Received feedback from poultry producers in Delaware.
- Consensus: USDA Avian & Plant Health Inspective Service (APHIS) indemnity and compensation program for foreign animal disease outbreaks could be improved.
- Sen. Coons set out to do so in the Farm Bill.
 - Support: Senate Chicken Caucus

What's the HPAI Act's Solution?

- Expand USDA-APHIS compensation to all poultry farmers in a HPAI control area.
 - The program currently only compensates farmers whose flocks test positive.
 - Program does not protect those in the control area who are disallowed from placing flocks until the virus is contained, which sometimes takes months.
- Simplify the calculation of indemnity.
 - The payments to farmers will be calculated based on the average income they earned from the last five flocks.
- This method is more transparent and ensures that farmers will not face a cash shortfall in the face of an HPAI outbreak in their area.

"I want to thank Senators Coons and Wicker for introducing this bipartisan bill that will help protect one of our most important assets – our farmers. This legislation recognizes the fact that highly pathogenic avian influenza can have a detrimental effect on any farm in an outbreak control zone, not just the farm that tests positive. NCC is proud to support this bill." – National Chicken Council President, Mike Brown