

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

The HPAI Indemnity and Compensation Process Start to Finish

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is one of the most serious diseases that can affect your poultry flock. An HPAI outbreak is an animal disease emergency. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States have authority to respond to and protect our country's poultry and livestock from harmful diseases.

First Steps

The [response](#) process starts as soon as a case is suspected. Trained personnel will collect samples from your poultry for testing and confirmation. Initial testing will take place at a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) lab. With a positive test result from NAHLN, a suspect case becomes a "presumptive positive" case. A USDA case manager will be assigned to you and will be your liaison with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) throughout the entire process. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) will then work to confirm initial test results. This can take some time, but will not slow down the onsite response process.

Compensation Overview

The Animal Health Protection Act authorizes USDA to provide indemnity payments to producers for birds and eggs that must be destroyed during a disease response. APHIS also provides compensation for depopulation and disposal activities and virus elimination activities. While the cost of HPAI goes well beyond the value of destroyed flocks and cleanup work, our ability to pay indemnity is limited by specific terms in the Animal Health Protection Act. For example, we cannot offer indemnity for income or production losses during downtime or other business disruptions due to HPAI.

Indemnity Payments for Birds and Eggs

USDA will compensate an individual for birds that must be destroyed using species-specific calculators. We also pay for some other losses, such as eggs that must be destroyed.

Making a Claim

You will need to work with your case manager to sign an appraisal and indemnity request form and accept compensation for your birds. Once this paperwork is complete, APHIS can begin depopulation work and move forward with the claims process. While depopulation work is underway, APHIS will prepare the full appraisal and related paperwork with the compensation amount, which is split between owner and grower if they are separate entities. Once you sign the full appraisal and related paperwork and return it to your case manager, USDA can finalize the indemnity payment.

An HPAI outbreak is an animal disease emergency. The Animal Health Protection Act authorizes USDA to provide indemnity payments to producers as part of the disease response. Compensating you and other affected producers for some losses and costs gives you needed support in a difficult time.

WHAT'S COVERED?

USDA **does pay** for indemnity for birds and eggs. USDA may also provide compensation for depopulation and disposal activities and virus elimination activities.

USDA **cannot** offer indemnity for income or production losses suffered due to downtime or other business disruptions.

Receiving Payment

To receive your payment, you must register your “DUNS” number through the Federal Government’s System for Award Management (SAM). A DUNS number is the standard business identifier for Federal electronic commerce. If you already participate in certain USDA programs, you probably already have a DUNS number. If you do not have a DUNS number, your case manager can help you with obtaining one. After receiving your number, follow the guidance listed in this document to register with SAM: www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Quick_Guide_for_Contract_Registrations.pdf.

USDA will need to verify your SAM registration before any payments can be processed. USDA deposits compensation funds directly into your bank account. You can expect to see the deposit approximately 2 to 3 weeks after you have given USDA the account information needed to process the payment.

Compensation for Depopulation, Disposal, and Virus Elimination Activities

Flock Plan

You must have a flock plan to receive compensation for depopulation, disposal, or virus elimination activities. A flock plan is not required for indemnity payments for birds or eggs. Your case manager will help you develop your flock plan, which is an agreement between APHIS, the State Animal Health Official, and you that:

- describes the methods used for depopulation, disposal, and virus elimination;
- documents your intention to eliminate HPAI from your premises and maintain [strong biosecurity measures](#) to prevent transmission or future introduction of the virus; and
- details regulatory requirements to release State and/or Federal quarantine areas.

Depopulation and Disposal

USDA covers the cost of depopulating and disposing of HPAI-affected flocks. In most cases, USDA or its contractors carry out these activities and pay the costs directly. If you choose to manage your own depopulation and disposal activities, USDA will reimburse you according to a financial plan, which you will develop with your case manager. This plan will detail the costs associated with the depopulation and disposal activities that are described in your flock plan and must be signed prior to payment being processed. USDA will reimburse you for those activities at a rate equal to what would otherwise be paid to a contractor for the same work. USDA will only reimburse for activities outlined in the flock plan.

USDA also provides compensation for materials, such as tools or pallets-that must be disposed of because they cannot be safely or adequately cleaned. Your USDA case manager must review and approve in writing any items that must be disposed of, prior to them being placed in a dumpster, in order for you to receive compensation for those items.

You must have a biosecurity plan in place and a flock plan to receive compensation for depopulation, disposal, or virus elimination activities.

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR APPRAISAL AND INDEMNITY

Below is a list of what’s needed for the appraisal and indemnity paperwork. Your case manager will help you gather this information and verify details with others, such as your flock veterinarian, if needed.

- Type of flock (turkey, chicken, layer, breeder, backyard, etc.)
- Age, sex, and number of each type of bird
- Number of barns and number of birds in each barn
- Bird mortality records over the last 2 weeks
- Eggs on hand/current egg inventory (if applicable)
- Onset date of disease signs (if present)
- Date of facility quarantine
- Reason for test (area surveillance, pre-movement, National Poultry Improvement Plan, sick-bird call)
- County where your farm is located
- Premises identification number, or PIN (location of poultry, not company home)
- Global positioning system coordinates (latitude/longitude) and 911 address for your farm
- Name of your facility/complex
- Claimant name and address
- Confirmation of mortgage status
- Appraisal date (date value is assigned to the birds or eggs)
- Name of diagnostic lab testing samples

Virus Elimination Activities

Eliminating HPAI virus from affected premises is a crucial step toward resuming operations. USDA will make flat-rate compensation payments for virus elimination activities based on a flat per-bird rate, with separate rates for caged- versus floor-reared operations. You may choose the method of virus elimination that works best for you. The method chosen will not impact the amount of flat-rate compensation for the affected premises.

If you decide to follow your premises instead of completing virus elimination activities, you are not eligible for virus elimination payments.

Activities included in the calculation of flat rates include barn preparation, a cleaning step, and a disinfection step. In developing the flat-rate payment structure, APHIS looked at existing data on these types of activities and calculated flat rates based on those that would be performed in a future outbreak.

Direct and early payment of a standard amount for virus elimination will give you the resources to conduct these activities yourself or directly retain and oversee contractors to do the work. USDA will publish a list of acceptable contractors at the time of a future outbreak, but producers would not be limited to those.

You can find more details about flat-rate payment for HPAI virus elimination in USDA's "[HPAI Virus Elimination: Flat Rate Payment](#)." To download this document, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/aiupdates and click on "HPAI Virus Elimination: Flat Rate Payment" (in the top area of that page).

For More Information

More information about USDA's HPAI response activities can be found on our Avian Influenza Web pages at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/aiupdates.

If you have any questions about the indemnity or compensation processes, talk with your case manager.

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HPAI INDEMNITY AND COMPENSATION RESOURCES

- **SAM Registration**
www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Quick_Guide_for_Contract_Registrations.pdf
- **Flat-Rate Payment Details**
www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/downloads/hpai_flat_rate.pdf
- **HPAI Response Activities**
www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/aiupdates
- **Biosecurity Self-Assessment Checklist**
www.uspoultry.org/animal_husbandry/intro.cfm

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