

# H5N1 in Virginia

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Avian influenza  
**STRIKES**  
Virginia poultry  
farms



# H5N1 in Virginia

- On Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, a flock of turkeys tested positive for antibodies to H5 on routine pre-slaughter surveillance
- The virus was assumed to be low-path
- On July 11<sup>th</sup>, the National Veterinary Services Laboratory typed the virus as an H5NI
  - Similar to strains that had been seen in migratory birds in Maine and Canada



# Safety Officer



- The **Safety Officer's** role is to develop and recommend measures to the IC/UC for assuring personnel health and safety and to assess and/or anticipate hazardous and unsafe situations.
- The Safety Officer also develops the Site Safety Plan, reviews the Incident Action Plan for safety implications, and provides timely, complete, specific, and accurate assessment of hazards and required controls.
- The Safety Officer approves the medical plan that is produced by the medical unit (logistics).

# Lessons Learned in VA

- Safety
  - Onsite assessment
  - Weather
  - Language barriers
  - Coordination with the contractor
  - Preventive medicine and PPE
    - Vaccines
    - Anti-virals
    - Fit testing / respirators
  - Medical/Mental Health support



# Lessons Learned in VA

- Public Information
  - Communication with the media
  - Communication with the farmer
  - Language barriers
  - Communication with litter brokers

# Lessons Learned in VA

- Planning
  - Layout operations on-site prior to placing equipment
  - Perform bio-security audits
  - Enhanced and scale down surveillance
  - Equipment availability and capability
  - Available workers
  - 24 hour operations
  - Disposal of backyard poultry

# Lessons Learned in VA

- Logistics
  - Enhanced / scale-down surveillance
    - Premise ID
  - Water / Carbon sources
  - Traffic Control
  - Communication
  - Compost disposal
  - Appraisals

# Lessons Learned in VA

- Administration
  - Financial based decisions
  - Change of personnel
  - Involve coop extension and local EOC
  - Chain of command

# Lessons Learned in VA

- Contractors
  - Contract negotiation
    - Delays
    - Responsibilities
  - Skilled labor
  - Familiarity with disease outbreak

# Post Exposure Surveys

- Contact Information
- Misinformation
- Language barriers

# Current Concerns

- Timeline expectations
- Use of contractors
- Backyard poultry
- PCR “positive”
- Controlled marketing
- Seasonal vaccination / PPE
- Financial restrictions
- ICS Training
- Depopulation modalities
- Equipment availability

# Future

- Establish premise IDs
- Industry Response Teams
  - Personnel
  - Equipment
- Virginia Poultry Disease Task Force
  - Coordinate with West Virginia and Delaware
  - Meet quarterly to update plan
  - Subcommittees
  - Establish budgets

# Contact Information

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