

HPAI Act

Healthy Poultry Assistance and Indemnification Act

Senator Coons (D-Del.) and Senator Wicker (R-Miss.)

Last year, the American poultry industry was hit with its worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The outbreak affected 47 states and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in losses to poultry growers and layer operations – and drove food inflation even higher on Americans' most cost-effective animal protein sources.

Senators Coons and Wicker lead the Senate Chicken Caucus and heard from many poultry growers and layers operations that the USDA Avian & Plant Health Inspective Service (APHIS) indemnity and compensation program for foreign animal disease outbreaks should be expanded and simplified.

Specifically, the HPAI Act would:

- Expand USDA-APHIS compensation to *all* poultry farmers in a HPAI control area; the program currently only compensates farmers whose flocks test positive, not 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.

Endorsing Organizations: American Farm Bureau Federation, National Chicken Council, United Egg Producers, Delmarva Chicken Association, Delaware Department of Agriculture, Delta Council, Delaware Farm Bureau, Mississippi Farm Bureau, Maryland Farm Bureau, South Carolina Farm Bureau, Iowa Farm Bureau, Louisiana Farm Bureau, Michigan Farm Bureau, Georgia Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Virginia Farm Bureau, Minnesota Farm Bureau, North Carolina Farm Bureau, Missouri Farm Bureau, Tennessee Farm Bureau, Alabama Farm Bureau, Indiana Farm Bureau