

## Vermont Poultry Stakeholder

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services has made updates to conditions under which APHIS will pay indemnity and compensation to farms affected by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI).

The final rule outlining indemnity and compensation payments for farms affected by HPAI became effective on September 14, 2018. This final rule does three things:

- Allows indemnity payments to be split between poultry and egg owners and their contracted growers and provides a formula for the split;
- Adopts biosecurity principles established by the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP); and
- Requires auditable biosecurity plans to be in place for larger-sized operations to receive indemnity and compensation payments.

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), a cooperative state, federal and industry program for controlling certain poultry diseases, developed a set of 14 biosecurity principles which were published in May 2017. They now serve as the minimum biosecurity principles that any poultry operation should follow. However, producers meeting the farm size requirements listed below must have audited biosecurity plans to be eligible for indemnity payments if affected by HPAI.

- Commercial table egg layers: 75,000 birds on premises
- Meat-type chickens (broilers): raise 100,000 or more broilers annually
- Meat-type turkeys: raise 30,000 or more turkeys annually
- Waterfowl and commercial upland game birds: slaughter 50,000 birds/year
- Raised for release operations: 25,000 birds raised/year

If a flock is this size or larger, than the producer must have a biosecurity plan in place that is audited by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture in order to be eligible for 100% indemnity and compensation. If a flock is smaller than the numbers listed above, the producer will receive 100% indemnity and compensation regardless of whether they have an audited biosecurity plan. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture recommends that producers of all sizes adhere to strict biosecurity practices and have a plan in place.

For producers affected by LPAI to receive 100% indemnity and compensation, they must be participants in the National Poultry Improvement Plan and its avian influenza monitoring program. To participate in the NPIP avian influenza monitoring program, the flock must be equal to or greater than the sizes below:

- Commercial table egg laying premises with at least 75,000 birds on premises
- A meat-type chicken slaughter plant that slaughters at least 200,000 meat-type chickens in an operating week
- A meat-type turkey slaughter plant that slaughters at least 2 million meat-type turkeys in a 12-month period



- A commercial waterfowl and commercial upland game bird slaughter plant that slaughters at least 50,000 birds/year
- A raised-for-release upland game bird premises, raised-for-release waterfowl premises, and commercial upland game bird or commercial waterfowl producing eggs for human consumption premises that raise at least 25,000 birds annually
- A breeder flock premises with at least 5,000 birds

If a flock meets the above size requirements but is not a participant in an avian influenza monitoring program with NPIP, the eligible indemnity and compensation amount would be 25% or less. If a flock does not meet the above size requirements, the producer is eligible for 100% indemnity and compensation, regardless of participation in NPIP.

To learn more about NPIP and biosecurity audits, visit [www.poultryimprovement.org](http://www.poultryimprovement.org).

If you have questions, please contact the Animal Health Section of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture at 802-828-2421.

