

# DEFENSE OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

A REPORT BY THE  
BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON BIODEFENSE

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**BIPARTISAN  
COMMISSION  
ON BIODEFENSE**

[www.biodefensecommission.org](http://www.biodefensecommission.org)

## PROPOSALS FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH



### Leadership

- Ensure that the National Biodefense Strategy and its implementation plan address threats to food and agriculture, including any gaps in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 implementation;
- Collect detailed agrodefense expenditures and provide them to Congress as part of an annual biodefense data call;



### Coordination

- Formalize cooperation between the federal agriculture and law enforcement sectors to ensure that outbreaks are evenly addressed by both, in particular through the next iteration of the *Food and Agriculture Incident Annex (FAIA)*;
- Ensure that the FAIA describes the critical role played by the nation's fusion centers, and is regularly exercised at the state level;
- Develop a standard of quality for biosurveillance;



### Collaboration

- Determine the optimal scope of wildlife disease surveillance activity and enhance support for the National Wildlife Disease Program commensurate with that need;
- Enhance collaboration among federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector entities that collect animal health data;
- Finalize the rule for the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases and incentivize rigorous reporting;



### Innovation

- Assess the ability of the National Veterinary Stockpile to meet the mandates of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9, request budgets commensurate with the threat, and invest in countermeasure development, procurement, and usage policy based on the identified need;
- Devote sufficient resources to diagnostics, including rapid diagnostics, for the National Veterinary Stockpile;
- Establish an antigen bank for foot-and-mouth disease virus; and
- Develop a business plan for the National Bio- and Agrodefense Facility that prioritizes public-private partnerships.

## PROPOSALS FOR CONGRESS



### Leadership

- Require the identification of agrodefense expenditures across the federal government;



### Collaboration

- Commit to a more realistic funding plan for federal wildlife surveillance efforts, and facilitate increased data collection from livestock and wildlife populations;
- Assess the authorities of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Agriculture to further collaboration with other public and private stakeholders that collect animal health data, and take necessary steps to support those efforts;
- Continue funding the National Animal Health Laboratory Network at no less than current authorized levels, with the possibility of additional funds should they be needed to fulfill the Network's mission;



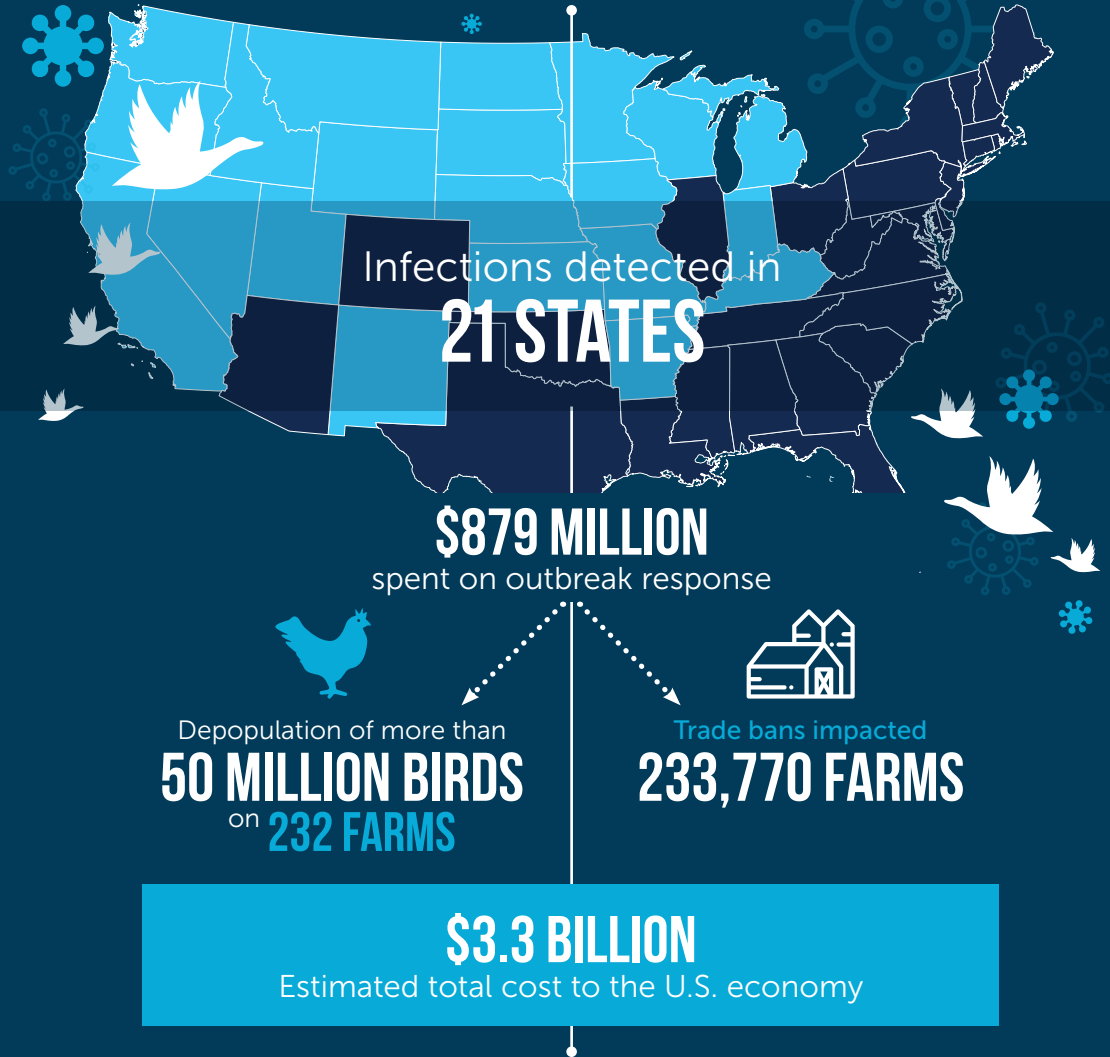
### Innovation

- Establish a prevention fund for animal health disease and disaster programs; and
- Authorize the National Veterinary Stockpile, and require annual progress assessments toward requirements.

## REAL WORLD EVENTS

A highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza entered the United States via migrating wild birds

DECEMBER 2014



JUNE 2015

In December 2014, a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza entered the United States via migrating wild birds. The ensuing outbreak resulted in the largest animal health disaster ever experienced by the United States. Federal and state governments spent \$879 million on outbreak response. The outbreak impacted 21 states, lasted until the middle of 2015, and led to the depopulation of more than 50 million birds on 232 farms. Subsequent trade bans impacted as many as 233,770 farms. The total cost to the U.S. economy was estimated at \$3.3 billion.

#### Sources:

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4. Shane, S. (September 2015). Lessons learned from the recent US HPAI epidemic. *Poultry World*, Retrieved from <http://www.poultryworld.net/Health/Articles/2015/9/Lessons-learned-from-the-recent-US-HPAI-epornitic-2693194W/>.

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