

ANIMAL DISEASES AND TRACEABILITY

Any outbreak of a foreign animal disease could cause distress across the entire agricultural sector. Timely identification, control and eradication of animal diseases is essential to U.S. agricultural production, food security, public health, animal welfare and international market access for U.S. producers. NASDA is committed to working with intergovernmental agencies and industry stakeholders to foster a collaborative approach to animal health initiatives.

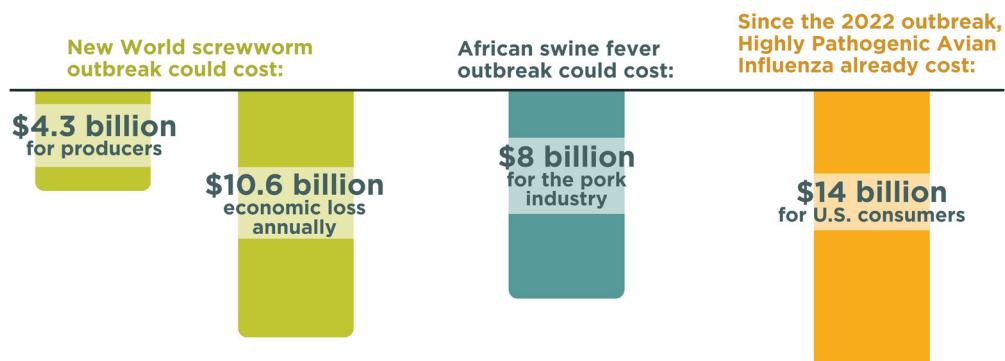


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State departments of agriculture, along with other federal and state partners, are responsible for tracking, responding and containing outbreaks of animal diseases in their states to protect the livestock industry, and more broadly, the U.S. food supply.

We must prepare now to avoid the next outbreak. NASDA's policy positions advocate for establishing strong animal health programs that could save billions of dollars of losses in the future from economically devastating diseases.



NASDA'S POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

NASDA supports fully funding these critical programs:

- National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank
- National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program
- National Animal Health Laboratory Network

NASDA requests additional programs to be established that:

- Maintain and strengthen funding mechanisms that enable states to execute disease surveillance, testing and response activities.
- Enhance investment in research needed to advance diagnostics, vaccines and other response or treatment options to current or emerging animal diseases and programs for outreach, education and implementation of science-based biosecurity protocols.
- Recognize the importance of agriculture's voice at both the federal and state levels in a [One Health](#) approach of collaborating to accomplish the goal of safeguarding animal, public and environmental health comprehensively.

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NASDA Supported Legislation:

- **Foreign Animal Disease Prevention, Surveillance and Rapid Response Act (H.R.3915)** - Funds the three-tiered approach to combating foreign animal diseases
- **Healthy Dog Importation Act (H.R. 3349 & S. 1725)** - Increases oversight at the borders to prevent disease introduction by domesticated dogs, a key carrier of diseases like New World screwworm
- **Rural Veterinary Workforce Act (H.R. 2398 and S. 1163)** - Allows veterinarians practicing in rural areas to be exempt from student loan repayments, thereby incentivizing these critical practitioners to stay in rural practices

BACKGROUND

State departments of agriculture recognize the importance of cross-agency collaboration to accomplish the goal of safeguarding animal, public and environmental health comprehensively. In combating Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, state departments of agriculture have worked collaboratively with both their state and federal counterparts to minimize the spread of the highly infectious disease.

The ability to rapidly identify and locate at-risk livestock is essential to limiting outbreak size, reducing the impact of depopulation, and restoring market access, making traceability an essential preparedness tool. One of the most successful and collaborative traceability tools to date is the National Milk Testing Strategy, which has greatly increased the prevention and traceability of HPAI outbreaks and while not perfect, has been shown as an effective tool in combating HPAI.

The 2018 Farm Bill established a three-tiered program to support the development and timely deployment of all measures necessary to prevent, identify and mitigate the potentially catastrophic impacts of an animal disease outbreak. To protect producers, consumers and the broader food supply chain, these risks must be met with fully funded preparedness and response programs, robust traceability capabilities and the ability for state animal health officials to act quickly during an incident.

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