

We represent consumers, organic, minority and family farmers, ranchers, animal welfare advocates, contract poultry growers, poultry workers, unions, environmentalists, religious groups, social justice organizations and concerned citizens. Our groups are concerned that the current government approach to avian influenza is flawed, and that the plan proposed by the USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service for responding to an outbreak in the U.S. is inadequate in several respects.

1. The plan does not acknowledge the risk of industrialized poultry operations in the emergence and spread of highly-pathogenic avian influenza. This risk is due in part to the vulnerability to disease created when thousands of genetically similar birds with low resistance are confined together in cramped, unhygienic houses.
2. The plan could have potentially devastating results for small family farmers and free-range, organic, and outdoor poultry growers because there is no clearly defined procedure for testing for and detecting the disease before culling of flocks begins. These groups are especially at risk because of the potential targeting of outdoor flocks and wild migratory birds as the prime vehicles for the virus' spread.
3. The plan does not include a process for directly compensating all producers for destroyed flocks, specifically contract growers who have put a significant amount of capital into their poultry operations. All of the associated costs of depopulating a flock in as humane and environmentally sound a way as possible should be covered for *all* growers, contract or otherwise.
4. The plan does not call for the adoption of the least inhumane possible techniques for mass depopulation and environmentally sound methods for disposal of destroyed flocks and poultry waste.
5. The plan does not adequately address dangers faced by workers who handle live poultry, process poultry or depopulate infected flocks and need to ensure appropriate protective equipment, specialized sanitation, training, human flu vaccinations (to prevent co-infection) and whistleblower protections for workers who detect and report sick birds.
6. The plan does not address the risk of spreading avian influenza through movement of poultry and poultry products. This risk comes not only from the legal movement of poultry, wild birds, and bird products, but also from illegal smuggling of poultry and live birds and from the use of poultry litter as a fertilizer and an ingredient for livestock and fish feed.
7. The plan does not address the potentially huge economic impacts for small processors and the vulnerability for the many workers at large plants if quarantines or depopulation eliminate the supply of poultry.

For the national response plan to serve all of the constituencies affected by a potential outbreak of highly-pathogenic avian influenza, it must include the following provisions:

1. All growers (contract, free-range, organic, outdoor and family farmers) should be directly compensated for their lost income due to depopulation or quarantine; time without flocks; and depopulation, disposal, and sanitizing costs.

2. Based on current information, when a flock has to be depopulated, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) euthanasia guidelines should be followed, with a preference for whole-house gassing with CO₂, or, if necessary, containerized gassing with an inert gas mixture containing no more than 20 percent CO₂ by volume.
3. Procedures for venting, dust control, and transportation and disposal of bird carcasses and waste should be improved and monitored to protect the environment and surrounding community and prevent spread of the disease.
4. Testing for the disease should be extended, and immediate quarantines should be enforced when the disease is detected. Also, neighbors should be notified about symptoms of the disease and steps for protecting themselves.
5. The Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Health and Human Services must develop and issue standards to protect potentially exposed health care workers, workers who handle live poultry, poultry processing workers, workers who depopulate infected flocks, and workers who track wild fowl. These workers should all be the highest priority for receiving appropriate vaccines, be provided with personal protective equipment (respiratory, eye and clothing), and be covered by whistleblower protections when reporting sick birds and suspected infection.

The signatories:

Alabama Contract Poultry Growers

Rick Hilliard
606 Hwy 57
Phil Campbell, AL 35581
Ph: 205-993-4227
bighill_1@yahoo.com

Catholic Committee of the South

Sr. Jan Barthel, OSB
150 Mount Tabor Road
Martin, KY 41649
Ph: 606-886-9624
janibosb@hotmail.com

California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)

Peggy Miars, Executive Director
1115 Mission St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Ph: 831-423-2263 ext 12
peggy@ccof.org

The Center for Food Safety

Joe Mendelson, Legal Director
660 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, #302
Washington, DC 20003
Ph: 202-547-9359
Fax: 202-547-9429
joemend@icta.org

Catholic Committee of Appalachia

Sr. Jan Barthel, OSB
150 Mount Tabor Road
Martin, KY 41649
Ph: 606-886-9624
janibosb@hotmail.com

Citizens Action Coalition

Jolinda Buchanan, Farm Program Coordinator
5420 N. College Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
Ph: 317-205-3535
Fax: 317-205-3599
cacfarmprogram@earthlink.net
www.citact.org

The Cornucopia Institute
Will Fantle, Research Director
901 Platt
Eau Claire, WI 54703
Ph: 715-839-7731
wfantle@cornucopia.org

Dakota Rural Action
Lois Andersen, Interim Director
P.O. Box 549
Brookings, SD 57006
Ph: 605-697-5204
Fax: 605-697-6230
loisa@dakotarural.org

Delmarva Poultry Justice Alliance
Carole Morison, Executive Director
145A Market Street
Pocomoke City, MD 21851
Ph: 410-957-9699
dpja@dpja.org

Family Farm Defenders
John E. Peck, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1772
Madison, WI 53701
Ph/Fax: 608-260-0900
familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com
www.familyfarmdefenders.org

Food and Water Watch
Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director
1400 16th Street NW, Suite 225
Washington, DC 20036
Ph: 202-797-6550
Fax: 202-797-6560
foodandwater@fwwatch.org
www.foodandwaterwatch.org

Georgia Poultry Justice Alliance
Rosalynn Evans, Executive Director
8097 Roswell Rd, Building C, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30350
Ph: 404-323-1884
gpja501@hotmail.com

Glenmary Commission on Justice
Marcus Keyes, Director
464 New Harvest Road
Washburn, TN 37888
865-497-2722
commonjustice@aol.com

Grace Factory Farm Project
Dr. William Weida, Director
215 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1001
New York, NY 10016
Ph: 212-991-1857
Fax: 212-726-9160
info@factoryfarms.org
www.factoryfarm.org

HOLA/National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
Rudy Aridondo
717 D Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20004
Ph: 202-628-8833
Fax: 202-737-1350
Cell: 301-366-8200

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Steve Suppan, Senior Policy Analyst
2105 First Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Ph: 612-870-3413
sSuppan@iatp.org
www.iatp.org

The Meatrix
Diane Hatz, Senior Program Director
215 Lexington Ave. Suite 1001
New York, NY 10016
Ph: 212-991-1936
www.themeatrix.com

Mississippi Contract Poultry Growers Association
Mary Fortenberry
191 Buford Fortenberry Rd.
Pinola, MS 39149
Ph: 601-847-2893
fortenberryfarms@bellsouth.net
Mississippi Poultry Workers Center

Kathy Sykes
383 S. 4th Street
Morton, MS 39117
Ph: 601-732-1898
Kathy@equaljusticecenter.org

National Catholic Rural Life Conference
Robert T. Gronski, Policy Coordinator
4625 Beaver Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
Ph: 515-270-2634
ncrlcg@mchsi.com
www.ncrlc.com

National Contract Poultry Growers Association
Larry Holder, Executive Director
1624 Haw Branch Rd
Sanford, NC 27330-6615
Ph: 910-947-5318
nepga@dsslink.net

National Family Farm Coalition
Deb Eschmeyer, Program Director
110 Maryland Ave. N.E., Suite 307
Washington, DC 20002
Ph: 1-866-390-3276
deschmeyer@nffc.net
www.nffc.net

National Poultry Justice Alliance (NPJA)
Andrea Whiteis, Director
510 S. Congress Ave., Suite 206
Austin, TX 78704
Ph: 512-236-9503
andrea@npja.org
www.npja.org

North Carolina Contract Poultry Growers Association
Kay Doby, President
229 Cypress Road
Cameron, NC 28326-7418
Ph: 910-245-7647
kdoby@earthlink.net

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers

Alliance
Ed Maltby, Executive Director
30 Keets Rd
Deerfield, MA 01342
Ph: 413-772-0444
Cell: 413-427-7323
Fax: 866-554-9483
emaltby@comcast.net
www.nodpa.com

Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc.
Williard Tillman, Executive Director
Ph: 405-201-6624
wtillman2@cox.net

Organic Consumers Association
Craig Minowa, Environmental Scientist
6771 South Silver Hill Dr.
Finland, MN 55603
Ph: 800-680-0432
Fax: 425-930-4341
craig@organicconsumers.org
www.organicconsumers.org

Poultry Worker Justice Project
Anita Grabowski
510 S. Congress Ave. Ste. 206
Austin, TX 78704
Ph: 512-474-0007 x103
anita@equaljusticecenter.org

RAFI-USA
Becky Ceartas, Program Director
Contract Agriculture Reform Program
PO Box 640
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Ph: 919-542-1396, ext.209
Fax: 919-542-0069

Regional Farm & Food Project
Billie Best, Executive Director
P.O. Box 339
Chatham, NY 12037
Ph: 518-271-0744
www.farmandfood.org

Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU/UFCW)

Steve Mooser, Director of Health and Safety
RWDSU
30 East 29th Street
New York, NY 10016
Ph: 646-246-1319
smooser@rwdsu.org

Reverend Jim Lewis

Longtime advocate for justice in the poultry industry
ejlchas@aol.com

Sierra Club

Aloma Dew, Associate Midwest Rep
2015 Griffith Place East
Owensboro, KY 42301
Ph: 270-685-2034
aloma.dew@sierraclub.org

Sustainable Table

Diane Hatz, Senior Program Director
215 Lexington Ave. Suite 1001
New York, NY 10016
Ph: 212-991-1936
www.sustainabletable.org

United Farmers USA

Hezekiah Gibson, Executive Director
601 S. Main St.
Brundidge, AL 36010
Ph: 803-410-2055
hkgibson@aol.com

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)

Mark Lauritsen, VP, Director Food Processing, Packing and Manufacturing Division
UFCW International Union
1775 K St NW
Washington, DC 20006
Ph: 202-728-4797 (Jill Cashen, Media)
mlauritsen@ufcw.org

Water & Food Working Group of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

Leslie H. Lowe, Energy & Environment Program Director
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1842
New York, NY 10115-0050
Ph: 212-870-2623
Fax: 212-870-2023
lhowe@iccr.org
www.iccr.org

Western NC Workers' Center

Francisco Rizzo, Director
P.O. Box 667
Morganton, NC 28680
Ph: 828-432-5080
Fax: 828-432-9080
Cell: 828-320-6212
fjrisso@hotmail.com

Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

Jill Davies
PO Box 59, Victor, Mt. 59875
Ph: 406-642-3601
rivercare@blackfoot.net
www.westernsawg.org

Worldwatch Institute

Danielle Nierenberg, Research Associate
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
Ph: 202-452-1992 x548
Fax: 202-296-7365
dnierenberg@worldwatch.org
www.worldwatch.org