

Date: FEBRUARY 18, 2025

In the: THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND
matter of: REQUESTING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT DUE TO HIGH PATHOGENIC AVIAN
INFLUENZA (HPAI) OUTBREAK

The Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County, Ohio met in regular session on the 18th day of February, 2025, at the Office of the Mercer County Commissioners with the following members present: Mr. Rick Muhlenkamp and Mr. Brian Miller. Mr. David Buschur was absent. Also, present Mrs. Kim Everman, Clerk / Administrator to the board.

Mr. Miller moved the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION # 25-187

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2025, Mercer County experienced its first case of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI); the continual outbreaks occurring thereafter have significantly impacted the poultry farming industry in Mercer County; and

WHEREAS, the outbreak of HPAI poses a sever risk to the economic stability of the agricultural sector in the community creating a ripple of effects in various sectors - impacting employment, supply chain demands, price inflation, stability of small businesses, and more; and

WHEREAS, the affected poultry farms in Mercer County are vital to the local economy and provide essential food products to the region, state, and nation;

WHEREAS, the outbreak of High Path Avian Influenza requires immediate and effective intervention, including the provision of emergency funding, resources, and technical support to mitigate further losses, contain the spread of the disease, and restore affected agricultural operations to full productivity as quickly as possible;

WHEREAS, the Board of Mercer County Commissioners recognize that discrepancy in lab tests can occur as a result of human error, handling, etc.; multiple samples will help ensure accuracy and reliability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Mercer County Commissioners, do hereby declare an emergency in Mercer County due to the outbreak of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), and request the following support from the State and Federal Government to assist in the containment, eradication, and recovery efforts related to the disease:

1. **Affirmation of Testing:** In barns that have tested positive but are showing no clinical symptoms, the Board requests that the flock owner(s) be granted the ability to take three (3) additional test samples within the affected facility; one sample will be sent to the State or Federal lab; the other two samples will be sent to accredited labs of the owner's choice; the depopulation process shall be delayed until the three (3) samples shows consistency with a positive result.
2. **Immediate Financial Aid and Compensation:** The allocation of emergency financial support to poultry farmers in Mercer County who have been directly affected by the outbreak of HPAI, including compensation for the loss of poultry and revenue losses due to quarantine and depopulation measures.
3. **Resource Allocation:** The provision of resources such as personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfectants, and biosecurity supplies to support the efforts of farmers, veterinarians, and agricultural extension workers in managing the outbreak and preventing further spread.
4. **Veterinary Support and Expertise:** Deployment of veterinary professionals and disease control experts to assist with the diagnosis, testing, and culling of infected poultry, as well as guidance on best practices for disinfection and recovery measures for affected farms.
5. **Extension of Emergency Funding Programs:** Activation of existing federal or state agricultural relief programs to provide low-interest loans, grants, or insurance claims to affected farmers for recovery, repopulation of flocks, and infrastructure repair.
6. **Coordination with State and Federal Agencies:** Full cooperation with state and federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for coordinated response, resource deployment, and exemptions from select regulations.

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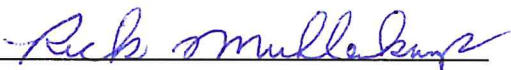
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this declaration is made in the best interest of the farmers, families, and businesses affected by the High Path Avian Influenza outbreak. The Board of Mercer County Commissioners is committed to working collaboratively with government agencies to ensure that the County can recover from this economic and animal health emergency as quickly as possible.


Mr. Muhlenkamp seconded the resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Miller, Yes; Mr. Muhlenkamp, Yes; Mr. Buschur, Absent;

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

Absent
David Buschur, Chairman


Rick Muhlenkamp, Vice Chairman


Brian Miller, Member

ATTEST:

Clerk / Admin. of the Board