

## Castle Receives Recommendations from Delmarva Agriculture & Industry Officials Regarding Avian Influenza Preparedness -- April 18, 2006

Sussex County, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today received "best practice" recommendations from key Delmarva agriculture and industry regarding animal health, prevention and containment in the wake of a possible avian influenza (A.I.) pandemic. Castle said he will communicate these recommendation to the federal government so the national response plan can be strengthened to focus more on prevention and containment at the agricultural level before A.I. becomes a human health problem.

Key recommendations from the participants include:

1) Surveillance--the importance of monitoring, identifying, and isolating the potential outbreaks in migratory birds, backyard flocks, live bird markets, and the commercial poultry industry.

2) Rapid Response--being able to remove the red tape to respond in a clear, coordinated, and cohesive fashion, including access to adequate personnel and supplies.

3) Technology and Equipment--includes foam depopulation (humane euthanasia), in-house composting, which are both developed, tested and preferred methods on the Delmarva Peninsula.

4) Comprehensive Federal Response Plan--should serve as benchmark for less prepared states. Needs to be a modern, up to the minute plan which should be prepared in conjunction with regions and states with expertise on the front line.

5) Transparency and Public Outreach--education of the public on the safety of the commercial poultry industry and the effectiveness of best practices, such as those used on Delmarva. This should be the shared responsibility of federal, state, and local governments

Participants in today's summit include:

Dr. Finch, APHIS

Michael Scuse - Delaware Secretary of Agriculture

Dr. John Brooks - Maryland Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

Bill Satterfield - Executive Director, DPI, Inc.

Dr. Robin Morgan - Dean, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Delaware

Dr. Jack Gelb, Jr. - Dept. Chairman for Animal & Food Sciences, University of Delaware

Dr. Guy Hohenhaus - State Veterinarian, Maryland Department of Agriculture

Dr. Tom Holder - Veterinarian, Allen's Hatchery

Dr. Chris McNeill - Veterinarian, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Roger Marino - Current President at DPI, Inc. / Mountaire

Dr. Bill Ricken - Tyson in Virginia

Phillip Strange - DuPont, Animal Health Solutions