

COST SHARE PROGRAM RESPONSE TO IMMINENT THREAT OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

The Commissioner of Agriculture through the State Veterinarian has determined that there is an imminent threat of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in North Carolina. The Division is working with the Department to assess circumstances where existing cost share policies may impede or enable efficient response to the imminent threat of HPAI.

The commission approved the following items to respond to the imminent threat of HPAI:

1. Approved a policy waiver to permit carbon sources for composting to be stored in ACSP-funded dry stacks, feed/waste storage structures, or composters (funded through the livestock mortality management systems BMP or manure composting facilities BMP) under active maintenance, with the provision that storage space within the structure that is needed for animal waste shall not be used for carbon source storage. Waste may not be stored outside.
2. Approved a policy waiver to permit compost material to be stored in ACSP-funded dry stacks, feed/waste storage structures, or composters (funded through the livestock mortality management systems BMP or manure composting facilities BMP) under active maintenance, until the compost can be land applied or removed. Waste may not be stored outside.
3. Approved a policy waiver to permit cooperators who have conservation tillage incentive or long-term no-till incentive contracts under active maintenance to receive the cover crop incentive on the same acreage if they harvest vegetation to serve as a carbon source to assist with HPAI mortality management. Applicable BMPs may include: long-term no-till, three year conservation tillage for grain and cotton, and three year conservation tillage for peanuts, sweet corn, tobacco and vegetables.
4. Approved a policy waiver to permit harvesting of crops on acres affected by ACSP contracts for conservation cover, cover crop, crop residue management, and nutrient scavenger crop.

These policy waivers are effective immediately and remain in effect through the end of the fiscal year unless the SWCC takes action to rescind sooner. Districts who have contracts using this waiver shall notify their cost share specialist by email.

Should additional BMPs require policy waivers to respond to HPAI, the division director has approval authority for these waivers. Any additional policy waivers approved will be presented at the next commission meeting.