2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Agriculture	2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan	1287

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	05/11/2023	05/11/2025	

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Commitee Type	14c. Presidential?
Agency	12/31/1971	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	$0.00	$0.00
18d. Total	$0.00	$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The purpose of the Committee is to serve as the official federal advisory committee to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture on matters pertaining to poultry health. The committee provides technical information regarding problems related to poultry health and as the need arises, make specific recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture concerning ways in which the Department may assist the industry in solving these problems. The GCC recommends to the Secretary of Agriculture any changes in the provisions of the NPIP as may be necessitated by unforeseen conditions when

postponement until the next NPIP Biennial Conference would seriously impair the operation of the program. The Committee represents and provides a voice to cooperating State agencies and all sectors of the poultry industry. Pullorum is an egg-transmitted agent and can cause upwards of 80% mortality in baby poultry, and the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) routinely monitors and certifies all NPIP breeding flocks under its U.S. PT Clean Classification. Egg and meat-type chicken breeding flocks and hatcheries, and virtually all of our trading partners require baby poultry and hatching eggs originated from breeding flocks and hatcheries free of PT. The General Conference Committee of the NPIP believes there continues to be a need for research in the area of rapid Pullorum-Typhoid serological tests for poultry and a consistent supply of Pullorum Typhoid antigen, which is the primary test available for certifying flocks free of Pullorum-Typhoid. Besides, Pullorum-Typhoid, the NPIP routinely monitors commercial broilers, roasters, game birds, turkeys and table-egg layers for H5 and H7 subtypes of avian influenza under its U.S. H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored program and these various avian influenza certification programs are recognized by all of the United States export trading partners as one of the premier avian influenza surveillance and certification programs in the world, and they are consistent with OIE guidelines for avian influenza surveillance. The General Conference Committee of the NPIP has requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue to sufficiently fund the NPIP avian influenza surveillance programs and 100 percent indemnity, when needed. In addition, as a consequence of the HPAI outbreak of 2014-2015, and 2022-2023, the Committee supports the 14 biosecurity

principles program and has successfully implemented this program over the past few years. Avian mycoplasmosis may be an industry disruptive and economically significant disease in poultry, and the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) routinely monitors chicken, turkey, waterfowl, backyard, and other types of breeding flocks under its various avian mycoplasma classifications. The standard plate agglutination test, and the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) are official screening tests of the NPIP for avian mycoplasmas, and the hemagglutination inhibition (HI) test is used to evaluate serum samples that react with the ELISA, or plate antigens, and in some cases both the plate antigen and the commercial ELISA have indicated the flock is negative while the flock was deemed infected because it was identified as infected by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) based procedure and the supply of plate antigens have been short on several occasions in the past few years, the destruction of primary and multiplier breeding flocks are very costly economically to the breeder industry in other ways, particularly when the diagnosis is questionable. The General Conference Committee of the NPIP believe there is a need for research in the area of avian mycoplasma diagnostics to aid in the determination of a more definitive diagnosis. Further, the Committee supports new diagnostic tests being approved for NPIP authorized laboratories that will assist with disease diagnosis. Further still, the General Conference Committee acknowledges the lack of support from a succession-planning standpoint across American universities and is supportive of ways to foster interest in training individuals to take the lead in Mycoplasma diagnostics in the future. The General Conference Committee of the National

Poultry Improvement Plan continues to support the U.S. Avian Influenza Clean Compartment program, which has been instrumental in proving to foreign trading partners that the mechanisms in place to prevent Avian Influenza spread are robust enough to guarantee the compartment has freedom from Avian Influenza, even in the face of the recent outbreaks, where the compartments were under unofficial test in 2022-2023. Trading partners have begun expressing more interest in the program recently, and the General Conference Committee urges USDA to continue to negotiate with foreign trade partners to sell the program in peace-time, based on its exceptional performance during war-time. The National Poultry Improvement Plan is a highly successful health certification program that has both a national and an international impact on trade and disease control, and the National Poultry Improvement Plan includes various programs for the monitoring and surveillance of poultry flocks for Salmonella pullorum, Salmonella gallinarum, Salmonella enteritidis, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Mycoplasma synoviae, Mycoplasma, meleagridis, avian influenza, and H5/H7 avian influenza and the control thereof. The success of any program is highly dependent upon the coordination, management, and staffing of all of its parts and the funding that it receives, and the current physical location of the NPIP national office. The NPIP national office is very efficiently located in the heart of the poultry industry, the state of GA. The office is conveniently near the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center of the University of Georgia, the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory and the Richard Russell Research Center of the Agriculture Research Service, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association headquarters, USA Poultry and Egg Export Council office, United Egg

Producers headquarters, venue for the annual International Poultry Expo, and the Georgia Poultry Laboratory where many NPIP workshops are held. Location of the NPIP office has contributed to the overall success of the program.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The committee members are elected at the NPIP Biennial conference by State delegates from their respective regions. There are seven members with a 4-year staggered term. In order to broaden the pool of nominations, the process of soliciting nominations for regional members would include advertisements in at least two industry journals (such as the newsletters of the American Association of Avian Pathologists, National Chicken Council, United Egg Producers, and the National Turkey Federation), Federal Register announcement, and special inquiries for nominations from universities and colleges with minority/disability enrollments and faculty members in poultry science and veterinary science. It is required that at least one nominee from each region be from under represented groups (i.e., minorities, women, or persons with disabilities).

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The committee meets at least annually. In the even years, they meet in conjunction with the NPIP Biennial Conference. The NPIP Biennial Conference is the only national meeting where the industry, State and Federal government consider poultry health issues on a routine basis. It has international implications relative to over $3 billion export market for poultry and poultry products.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The committee has been an integral part of the NPIP since 1947. Because it is cited in the regulations that govern the NPIP, no other committee could serve this function. This is the only official advisory committee that serves as a liaison between the USDA and the poultry industry on matters pertaining to poultry health. It serves as the official liaison between the NPIP and the United States Animal Health Association Committee on Poultry and Other Avian Species (CPAS), which was formerly known as the Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

Due to travel restrictions for the COVID-19 pandemic, the NPIP Biennial Conference set for May 2021 was cancelled; however, the GCC was able to meet virtually on September 22, 2021. The Biennial Conference that was postponed from 2020 finally occurred in 2022, and now the GCC is back on track for their meetings to occur coinciding with the in-person Biennial Conference in even years and as a standalone in-person meeting during odd years.

Designated Federal Officer

Elena L. Behnke DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Cutler, Gregg	06/28/2018	06/28/2024	Veterinarian	Representative Member
Heard, Denise	06/10/2022	06/10/2026	Veterinarian	Representative Member
Hermes, David	06/28/2018	06/28/2024	Veterinarian	Representative Member

Jurgielewicz, James	07/31/2021	09/30/2024	veterinarian	Representative Member
Lindsey, Christina	05/23/2023	06/10/2026	Veterinarian	Representative Member
Shafer, Dan	06/28/2018	06/28/2024	Veterinarian	Representative Member
Wileman, Benjamin	06/10/2022	06/10/2026	Veterinarian	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The committee serves as a forum for the study of problems relating to poultry health and as the need arises, to make specific recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture concerning ways in which the Department may assist the industry in solving these problems. The committee serves as a liaison between the U.S. Animal Health Association and the NPIP. It plays a critical role in the planning, organizing and conducting of the Biennial conference of the NPIP. The committee appoints subcommittees or working groups to help the department develop active surveillance programs for industry disruptive poultry diseases.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	☐
Trust in government	✓
Major policy changes	☐
Advance in scientific research	✓
Effective grant making	☐
Improved service delivery	✓
Increased customer satisfaction	✓
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	✓
Other	✓

Outcome Comments

Timely response to industry and program needs. Notifiable avian influenza control program for the commercial poultry industry.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	☐
Unable to Determine	☑
Under $100,000	☐
$100,000 - $500,000	☐
$500,001 - $1,000,000	☐
$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	☐
$5,000,001 - $10,000,000	☐
Over $10,000,000	☐
Cost Savings Other	☐

Cost Savings Comments

Greater than 10,000,001

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

183

Number of Recommendations Comments

4 new recommendations in FY 2023 49 new recommendations for FY 2022. 2 new recommendations for FY 2021. 0 new recommendations for FY 2020. 4 new recommendations for FY 2019. 36 new recommendations for 2018. 2 new recommendations for FY2017.Previous total recommendations were not identified in the committee's history and reported in error for FY10. For the record, the total number of recommendations for the “life of the committee” are 0 recommendations from FY1997-FY2002, 10 recommendations from FY2003-FY2008, 15 recommendations for FY2009, 41 recommendations for FY2010, 41 recommendations for 2011, 69 recommendations for FY2012, 69 recommendations for FY2013, 98 recommendations for FY2014, 7 recommendations for FY2015, 23 recommendations for FY2016.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

90%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☑ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Administrative Rulemaking of committee recommendations.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	☐
Reallocated resources	☐
Issued new regulation	☑
Proposed legislation	☐
Approved grants or other payments	☐
Other	☐

Action Comments

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	☑
Online Agency Web Site	☑
Online Committee Web Site	☑

Online GSA FACA Web Site	☑
Publications	☑
Other	☐

Access Comments

N/A