

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Kimberly Graham
Acting Administrator of FSA
Farm Service Agency
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary Rollins and Acting Administrator Graham,

We write today with deep concerns regarding the avian metapneumovirus (aMPV), an acute respiratory virus of turkeys and poultry breeding stock, and the devastating impact it has had on Iowa's turkey farmers. Given the severe implications threatening the viability of turkey operations, we ask that the U.S. Department of Agriculture consider providing immediate financial assistance to the nation's turkey producers by allowing aMPV to qualify as an eligible adverse event under the Livestock Indemnity Program.

The aMPV virus, or Turkey Rhinotracheitis, is a highly contagious, viral respiratory disease that can infect turkeys, broilers, layers, and breeders for up to four weeks, leading to high flock mortality, reproductive disorders, and potentially a permanent reduction in egg production.

Since its identification in the fall of 2023, the disease has spread to all turkey producing states, having a major impact on turkey farmers, processors, small businesses, and the consumer supply chain. Iowa turkey farmers have reported flock losses ranging from 30 percent to 50 percent due to aMPV, threatening both their livelihoods and the broader U.S. turkey supply. Last year alone, Iowa's farmers lost an estimated 569,700 turkeys due to aMPV. This attributed to a loss of \$18 million in farm income.


Iowa's sharp decline in turkey production is reflective of the national turkey industry at large. Despite devastating financial shortfalls and supply chain disruptions caused by aMPV, there are currently no federal assistance programs available to offset these devastating losses, leaving many family-owned operations at risk of closure. Without immediate support, the viability of these farms—and the stability of the U.S. turkey industry—is in jeopardy.

We appreciate the USDA's efforts in authorizing the importation of one inactivated vaccine and three live vaccines for aMPV. As this process develops, it is critical that the USDA act swiftly to approve its use and expedite its distributions across the nation. In the interim, turkey farmers continue to suffer substantial losses without any meaningful financial safety net.


To mitigate these losses and prevent future outbreaks, we urge the USDA Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA) to consider determining aMPV as an eligible adverse event under the Livestock Indemnity Program so that our farmers can access much-needed financial relief to affected producers.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working together to support American turkey farmers during this crisis. Should you have any questions about this request, please contact Congressman Zach Nunn's Legislative Assistant, Madeline Willis, at madeline.willis@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,




Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



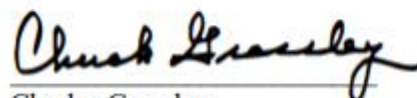
Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



Charles Grassley
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator