

# Veterinary Services

## Avian Influenza: Minimizing Trade Restrictions Through the U.S.-Canada Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Zoning Initiative

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# Overview

- Background on the FAD zoning initiative
  - Objectives
  - Timeline
  - Zoning Arrangement
  - Guidance Framework
- Overview of the Guidance Framework
- Use of the Arrangement and Framework
- Next steps

# Principles of zoning

- Zone definition [OIE]
  - A clearly defined part of a territory
  - Containing an animal subpopulation
  - With a distinct health status for a specific disease
  - For which control and biosecurity measures have been applied
  - For the purpose of international trade
  
- Zoning applications
  - Recognition of animal health status (regionalization)
  - Disease control/eradication of an outbreak

# Why a U.S.-Canada zoning initiative?

- High volume of cross-border trade.
- Potential for major economic losses.
- Response to stakeholder interest.

# Objectives

- Establish parameters for the U.S. and Canada to recognize each other's zoning decisions in the event of an FAD outbreak in either or both countries.
- Ensure that bilateral trade can continue between zones that remain free of the disease.
- Safeguard animal health in both countries.

# Timeline

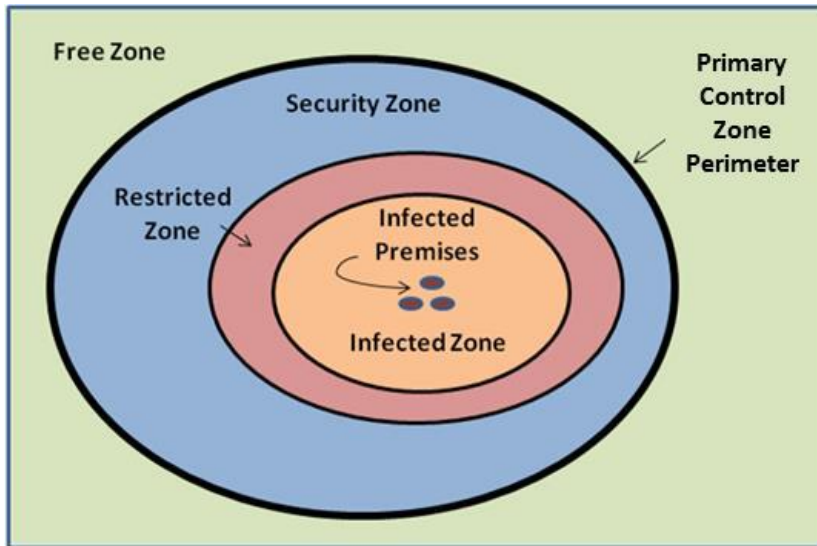
- August 2007—Initial bilateral discussion on zoning for FAD control and trade implications.
- 2008 to 2012—Reciprocal evaluations of veterinary infrastructure, emergency response, and zoning capabilities.
- October 2012—Arrangement for mutual recognition of FAD zoning decisions signed by both parties.
- May/June 2014—Guidance Framework for implementing the Zoning Arrangement published.

# Foundation: Reciprocal Evaluations

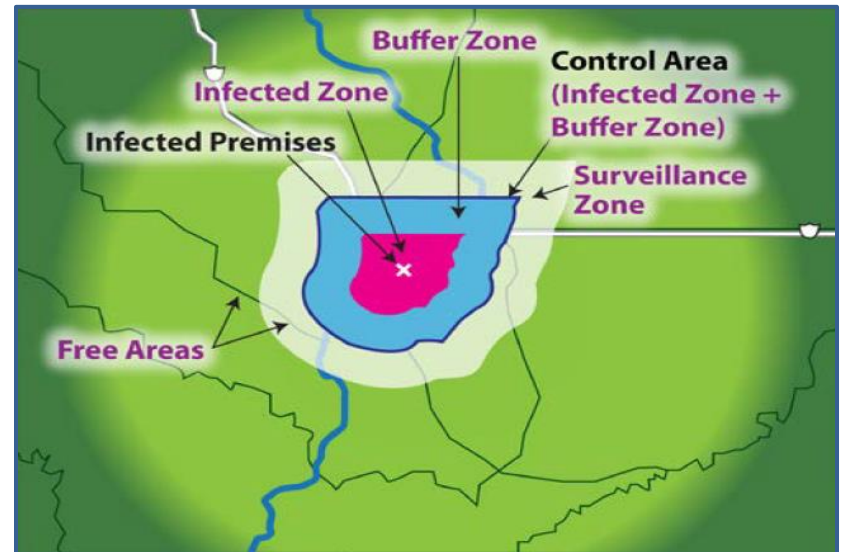
- Fundamental considerations included:
  - Organization, infrastructure, and legal authority
  - Livestock demographics and traceability
  - Surveillance and diagnostic laboratory support
  - FAD contingency planning and zoning practices
- Favorable conclusions regarding zoning capabilities.

# Zoning for FAD control

- Canada model:



- U.S. model:





# Regulatory Cooperation Council

- FAD zoning is one of 29 initiatives under the RCC.
- Presidential program launched in 2011.
- The first RCC FAD zoning workplan listed 2 action items:
  - *An arrangement* for recognition of FAD zoning decisions.
  - *A guidance framework* for implementing the arrangement.

# FAD Zoning Arrangement

- Signed in October 2012.
- Declares the intent of each party to recognize the other's decisions on zoning for control of FAD outbreaks.
- Lays out basic conditions for zoning recognition.
- References a Guidance Framework for implementation.

# Guidance Framework

- Draft Framework developed by a bilateral working group.
- Restricted in scope to highly contagious FAD outbreaks in domestic livestock.
- Draft framework made available for public comment:
  - APHIS published a Federal Register Notice on May 13, 2014.
  - CFIA published on the agency website on June 11, 2014.

# Framework Objectives

- Establish an operational plan for zoning recognition.
- Establish a structure for maintaining the arrangement.
- Establish a strategy to engage with other stakeholders.

# Guiding Principles

- Shared responsibility
- Cooperation
- Building credibility

# Essential Definitions

- Partner country—a country that is a signatory to the zoning arrangement (United States and Canada).
- Affected country—the partner country within which a highly contagious FAD outbreak occurs.
- Area of control—a geographic region containing an FAD outbreak, which typically consists of a central infected zone surrounded by one or more additional zones.

# Part I – Implementation

- Step 1: Initial notification of an outbreak
  - All confirmed FADs in domestic livestock
  - Initial action to safeguard animal health
- Step 2: Notification of an area of control
  - Form with information about the outbreak
  - Invitation to embed in/monitor the outbreak response
  - Certified by the CVO of the affected country

# Part I – Implementation

- Step 3: Recognition of an area of control
  - CVO of partner country reviews and signs
- Step 4: Trade between disease-free zones
- Step 5: Release of an area of control
  - Form with required information
  - CVO certification and countersignature



# Part I – Implementation

- **Monitoring**
  - Designated liaison embeds in or monitors response
- **Communications**
  - As per established plans for each country
- **Extenuating circumstances**
  - Initiate monitoring but delay recognition
  - Cost-benefit analysis

## Part II – Maintenance

- **Steering Committee**
  - Composed of senior-level APHIS and CFIA staff.
  - Preserves concept and intent of the arrangement.
- **Working Group**
  - Composed of CFIA and APHIS staff.
  - Directly engages with other stakeholders.
- **Projects**
  - Activities, plans, and tasks led by the Working Group.
  - Identified in consultation with other stakeholders.

# Part III – Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder engagement is essential to realizing the intent and purpose of the initiative.
  - Stakeholder support required to re-open trade.
  - Objections may create delays and/or obstacles.
- Stakeholders are very interested in this initiative.
- Common theme is the need to partner and consult closely with industry, provinces, and states.

# Part III – Stakeholder engagement

- Annual solicitation of stakeholder feedback/proposals.
- Webinars, town hall meetings, conference calls, internet notices, and other means.
- Updates on zoning initiative using established forums.
- Frequency of communications to depend on the project and the degree of stakeholder interest.

# Use of the Zoning Arrangement

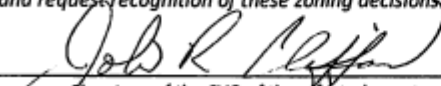
- First used by Canada on December 8, 2014
  - Recognition of a zone in British Columbia for HPAI
  - Recognition of zone release in June 2015
- U.S. requested recognition of multiple zones in several States from January 2014 – May 2015
- Numerous instances of facilitated trade



### Notification of Zoning to Control a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak

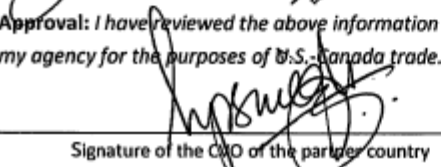
<b>Affected Country</b>	United State of America	
<b>Disease Agent</b>	Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N2	
<b>Zoning Decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New area of control
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change to existing area of control
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Release of area of control
<b>Outbreak Summary</b>	<p><i>Briefly summarize the outbreak to date or provide links to OIE reports:</i></p> <p>A backyard flock of approximately 100 birds (mixed poultry and waterfowl) located in Clallam County, Washington, was confirmed with HPAI on January 16, 2015. The flock was depopulated on January 18, 2015, and disposal was completed the following day. Active surveillance is being conducted in the immediate area. Movement controls for poultry and poultry products are in place throughout the control area (aka area of control). No commercial poultry premises are located within 10 km of the affected flock.</p>	
<b>Boundaries</b>	<p><i>Provide a written description of the area of control boundaries and attach map:</i></p> <p>The area of control is in Port Angeles, Clallam County, Washington. See attached map and detailed description.</p>	
<b>Response Policy</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stamping out
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (describe below)
<p><b>Invitation for Monitoring:</b> <i>I hereby invite one or more qualified staff members of the partner country to embed in and monitor the outbreak response, beginning immediately. Please contact the person below to arrange.</i></p> <p>Contact name: Dr. Lisa Ferguson  Title: Policy, Permitting, and Regulatory Services, National Director  Email: Lisa.A.Ferguson@aphis.usda.gov  Phone: 301-851-3301</p>		


**Certification:** *I certify that the information above is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge, and request recognition of these zoning decisions for the purposes of U.S.-Canada trade.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the CVO of the affected country

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approval:** *I have reviewed the above information and approve recognition of these zoning decisions by my agency for the purposes of U.S.-Canada trade.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the CVO of the partner country

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Use of the Zoning Arrangement

- U.S. did not request recognition of zones while outbreaks were progressing (Minnesota, Iowa)
  - Extenuating circumstances clause of the Framework
  - No request for recognition until disease effectively zoned
- Recognition of zone releases in U.S. in progress

# Next Steps (RCC-2)

- RCC-2 workplan published May 27, 2015
- Action items:
  - Draft bilateral response to comments received on the Guidance Framework
  - Assess the use of the Arrangement and Framework during the HPAI outbreaks
  - Develop tools to inform zoning decisions





United States Department of Agriculture

# Questions?

