



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**AGRICULTURE**  
CHAIRMAN GT THOMPSON

Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson  
Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Hearing  
*“A Review of USDA Animal Disease Prevention and Response  
Efforts”*  
Opening Statement  
April 18, 2023

*Remarks as prepared for delivery:*

“Under Secretary Moffitt and Dr. Naugle, thank you both for being here today. I also want to thank Chairman Mann and Ranking Member Costa for holding this very timely hearing.

“From real-time disease response efforts, to controlling potential disease vectors like the feral hog population, to monitoring a growing number of imported dogs from ASF-affected countries, and stopping the illegal entry of meat and fruit products and byproducts—APHIS has a tremendous task in protecting the health of the U.S. animal population.

“So I was proud of Congress’ work in the last farm bill to provide a historic investment in a suite of animal disease preparedness and response programs.

“As we draft the next farm bill, it is imperative that we understand how these existing authorities and resources have been utilized.

“Especially in the wake of high path avian influenza, and with the looming threat of African Swine Fever, we must ensure these, and related programs are having the greatest possible impact.

“I hear all-to-often from folks back home and across the country about their ongoing struggles with the high path outbreak, which has only reinforced my commitment to treating food security as national security.

“As we learned the hard way in 2014 and 2015, biosecurity plays an enormous role in mitigating the spread of the disease, and we want to ensure strong measures are in place across all production methods.

“That said, we also have to ensure these measures don’t unduly burden the day-to-day operation of our dedicated producers.

“So I appreciate the Departments continued collaboration with State officials and industry stakeholders towards an efficient, yet pragmatic response based on the latest available science.

“I’d also be remiss if I didn’t highlight CWD, which has been a big problem for the deer populations in Pennsylvania for quite some time and has spread to 29 other states across the country.

“Last Congress, I was proud to work with Congressman Kind and my House and Senate colleagues to enact the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act, and I look forward to working with you and my colleagues on the appropriations committee to ensure those programs continue to receive the attention and resources they deserve.

“With that, I again want to thank our distinguished witnesses, not only for being here today, but for their important day-to-day work in protecting the health of our animal populations.

“I look forward to your testimony, and I yield back.”