Dear Tribal Leader:

The Office of National Tribal Liaison (ONTL) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) greatly values its partnerships with Tribal Nations and communities. We regret that due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, we have been unable to meet with you in person and provide APHIS program updates as we have in the past. To keep you abreast of some major APHIS activities, we have hosted several Tribal webinars over the last several months. These webinars are designed to give you a better insight in how APHIS is helping to protect U.S. and Tribal agricultural and natural resources—and citizens—from animal and plant disease and pest threats.

We would like to invite you and members of your staff to attend a listening session: “Tribal Avian Influenza Listening Session”, on February 24, 2022, at 1:00 pm ET.

APHIS’ WS National Wildlife Disease Program is currently conducting targeted wild bird surveillance activities in the Atlantic and Pacific Flyways. APHIS anticipates collecting 16,500 samples in 25 states within those flyways. In response to recent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detections (and previous detections in Canada), APHIS will:

- Coordinate with 24 states in 2 additional flyways (Mississippi Flyway and Central Flyway) to determine sampling opportunities, hunting seasons, and presence of dabbling duck populations.
- Organize and coordinate sample submissions and logistics for laboratory support.
- Coordinate with Tribal entities, State DNRs and other federal partners for other potential sampling opportunities and will continue coordination and interagency prioritization.
- Expand wild bird surveillance to all four flyways starting in the 2022 wild bird migratory year (June 2022 – March 2023) and in future wild bird migratory years.

During this listening session we would like to take the time to update Tribes on the current HPAI situation, and encourage feedback for future HPAI communication and potential avenues for sampling waterfowl for HPAI on Tribal lands.

We appreciate your ongoing partnership in safeguarding our agriculture, and hope you will join us for this event. If you have questions about the webinar, please contact ONTL Program Analyst Denise Salvetti at denise.salvetti@usda.gov or the ONTL Director Dr. Terry Clark at terry.w.clark@usda.gov. Details on our webinar are below:

Sincerely,

Terry Clark

Terry W. Clark, DVM
Director, Office of National Tribal Liaison
USDA, APHIS
301-440-4388

Webinar Invitation
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Tribal Avian Influenza (AI) Listening Session  
February 24, 2022 1:00 pm EDT

Meeting ID: 160 489 0656

Web Join URL:  
https://coreshield.zoomgov.com/wc/join/1604890656?pwd=Z0pYV01lajNRMDNjelB5bHc3S1Jydz09

Zoom Join URL:  
https://coreshield.zoomgov.com/j/1604890656?pwd=Z0pYV01lajNRMDNjelB5bHc3S1Jydz09

Meeting Password: KstRH9LFm

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