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CAST Releases New Commentary Evaluating Impacts of an Avian Influenza Outbreak on International Trade

April 5, 2006...Ames, Iowa. Although much of the concern about a pandemic outbreak of high-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) revolves around the potential repercussions to human health, the potential impacts on international poultry trade are significant. To bring these trade concerns into sharper focus, CAST has prepared a new Commentary, *Avian Influenza: Trade Issues*.

The global market impacts resulting from outbreaks of HPAI include

- poultry-meat supply buildups,
- poultry consumption declines,
- potentially sharp drops in global poultry trade,
- declining international poultry prices and industry profitability,
- disruptions in normal trade flows, and
- serious potential impacts on small-scale poultry operations and backyard chicken producers, including loss of income and employment opportunities and risks to food security.

CAST's timely new Commentary includes a brief review of current HPAI concerns, an examination of the U.S. and international poultry trade, an overview of detection and domestic response to an HPAI outbreak, observed international market responses, conclusions, references, and websites for further information.

"The short-term costs to economies are considerable," says CAST Task Force Chair Toby Moore, USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, "and even short-term market impacts have long-term implications for trading patterns, policy formulation, longer-term investment in the sector, and overall industry and sector development. What is needed is a science-based approach to protect markets from animal-based health risks while minimizing global market disruptions."

"Poultry industries worldwide recognize the gravity of the situation and have agreed to work together on a concerted campaign to help producers prevent or control AI and to assure consumers that poultry meat is safe to eat when properly handled and cooked," concludes CAST Executive Vice President John M. Bonner. "CAST is pleased to add this Commentary to the current body of credible information on trade issues affected by HPAI."

The full text of *Avian Influenza: Trade Issues* (CAST Commentary QTA 2006-2) is available online without charge at the CAST website <www.cast-science.org>, along with many of CAST's other scientific publications. CAST is an international consortium of 38 scientific and professional societies. It assembles, interprets, and communicates credible science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to its stakeholders—legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

CAST'S RECENTLY RELEASED COMPANION PIECE—*AVIAN INFLUENZA: HUMAN PANDEMIC CONCERNS*—ALSO IS AVAILABLE AT <www.cast-science.org>

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