

**HEALTHCARE**

**EMERGENCY  
RESPONDERS COMBAT  
DISEASE**

CASE STUDY | US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

**USDA RESPONDS TO THE NATION'S  
MOST DESTRUCTIVE ANIMAL DISEASES**

**CHALLENGE**

An outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza ("avian flu") in 2014 put the \$40 billion US poultry industry at risk. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) took the lead in responding to this threat to US food security. But as the outbreak spread, USDA found itself in need of experienced emergency responders to combat a virulent and fast-moving disease.

**SOLUTION**

Witt O'Brien's teamed with USDA to lead on-site command and control efforts. Our team grew to 43 staff, working shoulder-to-shoulder with USDA leadership to manage depopulation efforts and outbreak management across federal, state, local and private sector stakeholders.

**RESILIENCE DELIVERED**

Our "surge" capability was a crucial enabler for USDA to manage outbreaks in over 200 commercial premises. Once the outbreak was contained, we helped USDA with its after-action report and then partnered with the agency to develop a robust preparedness program. The planning, training and exercises we've led have been put to the test on subsequent animal disease outbreaks, proving the strong progress USDA has made in its overall preparedness.

**WITH YOU WHEN IT COUNTS**



**HEALTHCARE**

Healthcare facilities have a duty of care to their patients and communities, to ensure continuity of care even in extreme circumstances. They also face an increasing range of regulatory requirements governing emergency preparedness and response. We partner with you to achieve both goals.

**CONTACT AN EXPERT**



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