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## HPAI IN LIVESTOCK (pub. 12/10/24)



### What is HPAI?

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus has been detected in lactating dairy cows in the U.S. Initial infection is believed to have been transmitted from migratory birds.

Virus detection has been reported up to two weeks prior to symptoms appearing through bulk tank testing. Reported symptoms are decreased milk production, reduced feed consumption, fever, thicker (colostrum-like) milk, and changes in manure consistency. **If you notice symptoms in your herd, contact your veterinarian.**

### Dairy Biosecurity

- Quarantine any new or returning animals for a minimum of 30 days. This includes animals returning from exhibition.
- Isolate symptomatic cows.
- Clothing, footwear, and equipment worn/used around symptomatic animals should not be worn/used around other animals until cleaned and disinfected. Use EPA-registered disinfectant effective against HPAI.
- Limit cattle contact to those essential for the health and continued operation of the dairy. Require or provide clean clothing and footwear to those entering.
- Limit movement and sharing of equipment and people between other livestock or poultry operations. If necessary, practice good biosecurity and thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment before returning.
- People exposed to an affected dairy herd should not have contact with poultry or other livestock.
- Avoid housing multiple species of animals together.
- Minimize access of wild birds, poultry, waterfowl, pets and other livestock to lactating cattle and their environment.

A thorough list of biosecurity recommendations can be found on the [National Milk Producers](#) website. Producers are also encouraged to complete and follow a Secure [Milk Supply Plan](#).



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## Milking Biosecurity

- Clean and dry teats before milking. Complete post milking teat dip coverage.
- Follow milk system sanitation steps before milking other groups of animals.
- Do not share equipment for use on animals from other farms.
- Disease-causing pathogens, such as HPAI can be transmitted through raw milk. FDA recommends that all milk intended to be fed to calves and other animals (e.g., cats fed on the farm) should be pasteurized or heat-treated at times and temperatures like those commonly found in commercial milk pasteurization processing.
- Any raw milk or raw milk products from exposed cattle, that cannot be heat treated or pasteurized should be safely discarded. Exposed cattle generally mean cattle located on a premises with cattle with suspected or confirmed H5N1. Milk from sick cows should be discarded in a manner that meets local, state, and federal regulations.

## Milk Safety

Because products are pasteurized before entering the market, there is no concern about the safety of the commercial milk supply. Pasteurization has continuously proven to inactivate bacteria, and viruses like influenza, in milk.

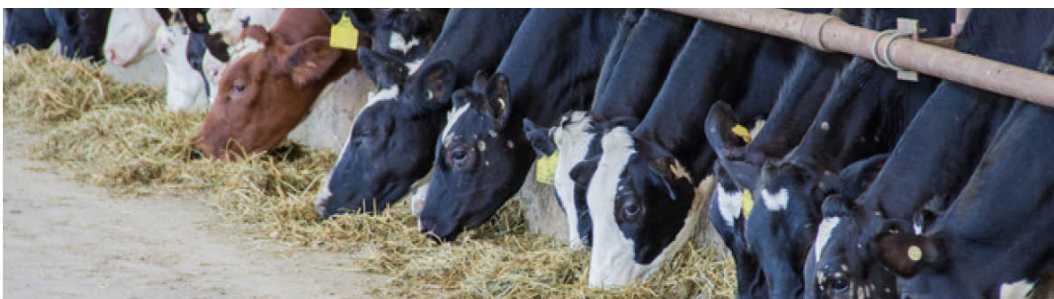
**Consumption of raw milk is discouraged.**

## Human Safety

Although the risk is low, there have been cases of human infection with the HPAI virus. People working with symptomatic cattle, including those working with or disposing of milk waste, should wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when in close contact with sick or dead animals, animal feces, litter, milk, or materials known to be or potentially contaminated with HPAI (H5N1) viruses.

Contact MDA with questions at (573) 751-3377.

Find current information on the evolving situation on the [USDA website](http://www.usda.gov).



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