

Created: 8.5.24

Questions? Contact: Rebekah Sweeney, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association
rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org

H5N1 On-Farm Response Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

A. General Information

Farm Name	
National Premises Identification Number	
Farm Address	
Farm GPS Coordinates	
Primary Biosecurity Contact Name	
Primary Biosecurity Contact Information	Phone: Email:
Secondary Biosecurity Contact Name	
Secondary Biosecurity Contact Information	Phone: Email:
Date SOP was written	
Date SOP was approved	
Name of SOP-approving party (owner/co-owner, etc...)	
Signature of SOP-approving party	

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B. Justification

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is widespread among wild birds globally, including in the United States. The virus has also caused outbreaks in commercial and backyard poultry flocks¹, and sporadic infections in mammals.

H5N1 infection in U.S. dairy cows was first confirmed by USDA on March 25, 2024², and the virus has triggered a multi-herd, multi-state outbreak.

To guard against the spread of this virus, **FARM NAME** is enhancing its biosecurity measures as outlined in this SOP.

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fflu%2Favianflu%2Favian-flu-summary.htm

² <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/agency-announcements/federal-state-veterinary-public-health-agencies-share-update-hpai>

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C. Roles and Responsibilities

Guidance: This section should describe key staff and related responsibilities associated with an enhanced biosecurity plan.

Primary Biosecurity Contact: This individual is responsible for determining enhanced biosecurity steps **FARM NAME** is taking to address the threat of H5N1, and for completion of **FARM NAME's** plan. They may work with a veterinarian on these tasks. This individual is also responsible for communicating related expectations to staff and visitors to the premises. They have authority to ensure compliance and take corrective action.

Secondary Biosecurity Contact: In the event the primary biosecurity contact is unavailable, this individual is responsible for taking on the related responsibilities.

TEMPLATE

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D. Environmental and Facilities

Guidance: This section should describe all practices and procedures related to environmental safety on premises associated with enhanced biosecurity on premises.

D1. Boundaries

- **FARM NAME** has established a line of separation (LOS), clearly marked on the premises, to prevent the spread of virus to livestock. Past the LOS, all people, equipment and vehicles must follow additional biosecurity measures as detailed below. LOS access points are barred and clearly marked. **See attached map denoting LOS.**

D2. Disinfecting and Sanitizing

- **FARM NAME** has an operational, clearly marked, and equipped disinfection station for vehicles and equipment needed past the LOS.
- **FARM NAME** ensures that all milk truck and other drivers passing the LOS spray the inside of their cab (floorboards and steering wheel, specifically) with an EPA-approved disinfectant³, and use hand sanitizer upon exiting and entering the cab.

D3. Access and Space

- **FARM NAME** has designated entry and exit points to employees and visitors to the premises.
- **FARM NAME** posts signs at all entry points to the premises with biosecurity information.
- **FARM NAME** restricts access to the premises to only vehicles and people necessary to conduct daily operations
- **FARM NAME** records all non-employees visiting the premises and limits their contact with animals and the milk house to only those with essential functions.
- **FARM NAME** has established a parking area for essential vehicles, away from the animal/milk house areas; the path to this parking area does not cross the LOS.

³ <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/epas-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-avian-influenza>

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- **FARM NAME** prohibits off-farm vehicles and equipment from access to outside animal/milk house areas.
- **FARM NAME** has established driving and human walking paths that do not cross cow walking paths.
- **FARM NAME** has designated access separate to milk trucks for rendering trucks to pick up dead animals in a way that does not cross the line of separation.
- **FARM NAME** has taken steps to ensure the disposal of dead animals in a way that prevents the attraction of wildlife, including rodents and scavenging birds.
- **FARM NAME** has taken steps [insert specifics] to minimize bird and rodent nesting around the premises.
- **FARM NAME** has taken steps [insert specifics] to prevent feral or roaming dogs and cats and other animals from moving through the premises.
- **FARM NAME** has taken steps [insert specifics] to ensure the disposal of dead animals in a way that prevents the attraction of wildlife, including rodents and scavenging birds.
- **FARM NAME** has taken steps [insert specifics] to prevent nose-to-nose contact with livestock on adjacent premises.

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E. Personal Protective Equipment and Responsibilities

Guidance: This section should describe supplies, practices, procedures, guidelines, and schedules for personal protective equipment and responsibilities.

- **FARM NAME** provides/requires clean footwear/disposable booties for people entering animal/milk house areas.
- **FARM NAME** provides/requires eye protection for people entering animal/milk house areas.
- **FARM NAME** provides/requires clean clothing/coveralls/aprons for people entering animal/milk house areas.
- **FARM NAME** provides/requires disposable gloves for animal handlers/milk house employees and all visitors to the premises.
- **FARM NAME** provides hand washing stations with running water, soap, and disposable towels for animal handlers/milk house employees and all visitors to the premises, and requires their use when an individual has come into contact with raw milk.
- **FARM NAME** ensures that all drivers remove gloves and disposable outerwear/footwear or disinfect protective outer clothing and footwear before returning to the cab of their vehicle.

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F. Communication & Training

- **FARM NAME** ensures that all biosecurity signage is posted in languages relevant to individuals on premises, including:
 - English
 - Spanish
 - XXXX
 - XXXX

- **FARM NAME** ensures that employees are provided with annual biosecurity training and regular, timely updates on recent H5N1 developments in a language the employees understand. Employees have been provided with training specifically on:
 - H5N1 infection symptoms in livestock
 - H5N1 infection symptoms in humans
 - H5N1 testing resources
 - Proper disinfection techniques
 - Proper handwashing techniques
 - Importance of the use of personal protective equipment
 - If desired, fitting and training for the use of NIOSH-approved respirators

- **FARM NAME** ensures that visitors to the premises are provided with basic biosecurity training on-site, prior to crossing the LOS.