



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in Livestock

Information for Producers



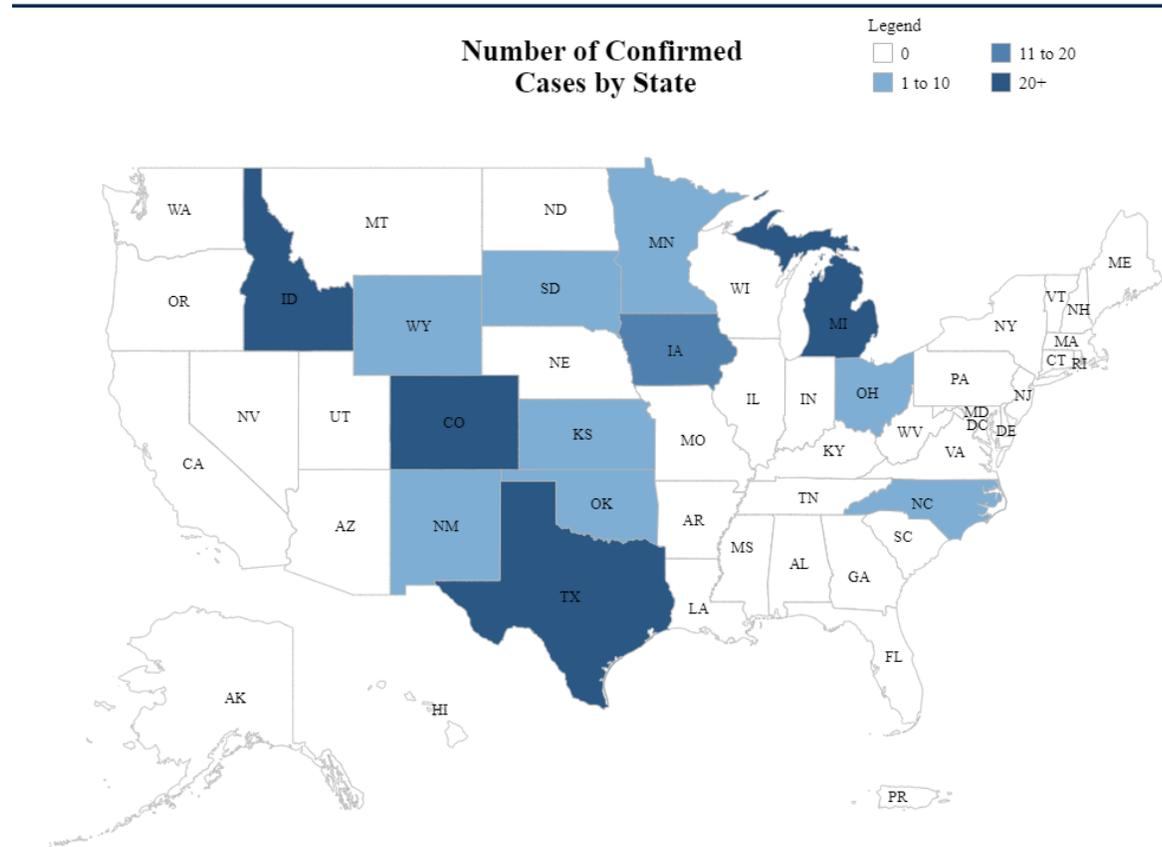
Overview

- First detection confirmed March 25, 2024
- The cause: single introduction into dairy cattle from birds followed by transmission through cow movement
- Data shows virus transmission occurs through normal business operations : People, vehicles, and conveyances moving on and off affected premises
- Latest information about confirmed detections is available on [Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) in Livestock \(usda.gov\)](#)

Situational Update – August 12th 2024

Confirmed Cases Total Outbreak
190

States Affected Total Outbreak
13



H5N1 in Dairy Cows

- Causes sudden drop in milk production
- Milk may become thickened or colostrum-like
- Cows may run a fever, go off feed, or otherwise do poorly
- Recovery within 30 days, on average
- Milk production returns as cows recover but may not return to 100%
- Unknown whether H5N1 affects future pregnancies or milk production



USDA Surveillance and Epidemiological Activity

USDA is working around the clock to learn all we can about this disease, and how to reduce its impacts.



Administering epidemiology questionnaires



On-farm intensive sampling and testing



Sampling wild birds, rodents, and other animals



Genetic Sequencing

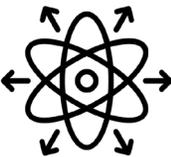
Epidemiological Highlights



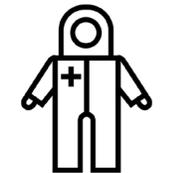
Spread of H5N1 between states is linked to **cattle movements**, not on wild bird introductions



In some states, further local spread has occurred **between dairy farms**



Disease spread between premises is likely **multi-factorial** (direct and indirect transmission routes)



Biosecurity is key to limit the risk of disease spread

Potential Transmission Pathways



Federal Order

Many states have stricter requirements – contact the destination state before moving lactating dairy cattle interstate

- **Mandatory testing** for interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle
- **Mandatory reporting** of HPAI-positive cows
- **Restricted Movement** for herds with positive HPAI test results for a minimum 30-day period.

Full text of [Federal Order](#) and **frequently asked questions** available at [Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) in Livestock \(usda.gov\)](#)

Biosecurity Recommendations

Biosecurity can only work if **EVERYONE** on the operation follows the established biosecurity plan **ALL** of the time

Enhanced biosecurity can include:

- Limiting visitors.
- Using separate boots from one farm premises to another.
- Disinfecting all vehicles, trailers and tires, and any equipment that may be shared between premises.
- Avoiding mixing species.
- Keeping livestock and pets away from birds.
- Checking animals regularly for signs of illness.
- Isolating and reporting any potentially sick animals to your veterinarian and the local [APHIS Area Veterinarian in Charge \(AVIC\)](#).

[Secure Milk Supply](#)

[Healthy Farms Healthy Agriculture](#)

Biosecurity Recommendations - Farms

- Only allow people on farm who **need to be there**
- Use **one entrance** and exit for the farm
- Keep a record of **all farm visitors**
- Give visitors **disposable shoe covers** to wear on the farm
- Keep a **separate pair of boots** for use on the farm around your animals
- **Use a footbath** made up with a registered EPA disinfectant effective against avian influenza to clean footwear before entering the farm
- **Spray disinfectant** on all vehicle and trailer tires before returning to the farm
- Don't borrow **tools or equipment** from other farms
- **Don't use untreated water** from ponds or streams



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

Biosecurity Recommendations - People

Protect Yourself From H5N1 When Working With Farm Animals

H5N1 is a bird flu virus that could make you sick. Wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) when working directly or closely with sick or dead animals, animal feces, litter, raw milk, and other materials that might have the virus.



Wash hands with soap and water, then put on PPE in this order:

1. Fluid-resistant coveralls
2. Waterproof apron, if needed for job task
3. NIOSH Approved® Respirator (e.g., N95® filtering facepiece respirator or elastomeric half mask respirator)
4. Properly-fitted unvented *or* indirectly vented safety goggles or face shield
5. Head cover or hair cover
6. Gloves
7. Boots



Participating in Local Fairs and Shows



1

Follow the Event's Biosecurity Plan



2

Clean and Disinfect Equipment Often



3

Don't Share Equipment



4

Observe Animals Closely



5

Stay Home If You Are Sick



6

See a Doctor If Symptoms Occur



7

Scan the QR Code To Learn More



Training Materials

Biorecurity

Disease Monitoring:
Observe

Disease Monitoring:
Sample

Forms

Outreach

Enhanced Biosecurity Training

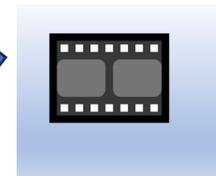
Resources to write an **Enhanced Biosecurity Plan** can be found under **Milk Producers**

>> [Biorecurity](#).

The enhanced biosecurity plan can only work if EVERYONE on the operation follows it ALL of the time, which requires training. The following videos and materials provide essential personnel with some of the information they need to be part of the herd health protection team. Remember to document all training (visit [Forms page](#)).

Biorecurity Training Videos

- Biosecurity during Raw Milk Collection
 - Tanker does not cross the LOS, only transfer hose: [Watch \(5:18 mins\)](#) | [Download \(388 MB\)](#)
- Biosecurity at the Processing Plant: [Watch \(8:07 mins\)](#) | [Download \(425 MB\)](#)



Dairy Herd Status Program for **Unaffected** Herds

- Provide additional testing options to monitor herd health.
- Ease burden of pre-movement testing for unaffected herds.
- Reduce H5N1 viral spread.
- Support national strategy to monitor and control HPAI in dairy herds.



Financial Support for Producers

Support Option	Affected premises	Unaffected premises
PPE support	Up to \$2,000/month	No support available
Biosecurity planning	Up to \$1,500*	Up to \$1500*
Milk treatment	Up to \$8,000	No support available
Veterinary cost	Up to \$10,000	Up to \$2000
Sample shipping cost	Up to \$50 per shipment**	Up to \$50 per shipment**

*Also includes \$100 for in-line sampler for milk

**For up to 2 shipments per month

Certain conditions apply. For more information, go to www.aphis.usda.gov. Interested producers should contact their [Area Veterinarian in Charge](#) to enroll.

What You Can Do Now

- Practice good biosecurity.
- Enroll in the USDA Dairy Herd Status Program.
- Exercise caution when participating in fairs and shows.
- Contact your AVIC to discuss options for financial support.



Contact your Area-Veterinarian-in-Charge

USDA Area-Veterinarians-in-Charge in your State are available to help you keep livestock and poultry healthy and profitable.

[Area Veterinarian in Charge](#)



If a Herd Meets the Case Definition of H5N1 Infection There are Two Additional Options:

1. USDA Support for Producers with Affected Dairy Premises
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MEDACF/2024/06/26/file_attachments/2919703/usda-support-hpai-affected-premises.pdf Apply through the state Area Veterinarian in Charge
2. USDA FSA Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP) <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index> Apply through FSA

USDA APHIS Support for Producers with Affected Dairy Premises



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Support for Producers with Affected Dairy Premises



USDA FSA ELAP Indemnity Program

- Compensation for lost milk production through **USDA FSA's** Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).
- Producers with herds that have tested positive for H5N1 are eligible.
- Pays 90% of the value of milk lost when cows are sick.
- More information is available online at [Disaster Assistance: ELAP - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(H5N1\)](#).

Additional Resources:

- [Secure Milk Supply program](#)
- [FARM](#)
- [Healthy Farms Healthy Agriculture](#)
- [H5N1 Personal Protective Equipment Recommendations](#)
- [Prevention and Antiviral Treatment of Bird Flu Viruses in Humans](#)
- <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/FarmerMentalHealthWellness.aspx>
- <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/programs/comet-changing-our-mental-and-emotional-trajectory/>