



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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Protecting Your Herd Against H5N1 Bird Flu: Biosecurity Recommendations

H5N1 Bird Flu has been confirmed in California dairy herds as of August 30, 2024. Incorporating consistent and continuous biosecurity practices is the most effective defense against this virus for producers. Most producers already have an established biosecurity program based on state or federal programs; for producers without a comprehensive biosecurity plan, we are providing a list of effective actions that can be taken immediately.

Here are 10 Action Items to Protect Your Herd

Special thanks to Dr. Michael Payne with CDQAP

Comply with movement requirements. If importing cattle from outside California is unavoidable, make sure your out-of-state veterinarian has completed a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI, aka “health papers”), entry permits, and pre-movement testing.

Isolate new or returning arrivals for 30 days. Isolation paired with pre-movement testing offers the greatest protection. For heifers raised off-site, ensure that springers are either tested before movement and/or returned to the dairy and quarantined 30 days prior to calving.

Train employees to report suspicious symptoms. Early segregation of infected animals into a hospital string can greatly limit within-herd spread and financial losses. Train employees to both follow your farm’s biosecurity protocols as well as report suspicious symptoms in cattle.

Power wash and disinfect trailers. Cleaning and disinfection of shared vehicles (particularly trailers), both before and after farm entry, is critical. If possible, use only your own trailers to transport only your own animals.

Limit or prohibit non-essential farm visitors. Work with essential visitors (veterinarians, artificial insemination and equipment technicians, hoof trimmers) to develop biosecurity plans tailored to their function.

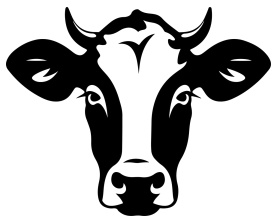
Partner with your processor on milk pick-ups. Infected milk is the primary method of disease spread. Producers should understand what PPE and hygiene practices processors expect from their haulers. Processors may choose to dedicate certain trucks for use only on infected farms.

Use an effective isolation location that will not allow nose-to-nose contact with resident cows and will not share a water source. Such isolation requirements may be difficult to meet on the home dairy and use of an alternative isolation location may be necessary.

Provide PPE for employees. Provide disposable gloves and N95 masks, along with non-disposable personal goggles or a face shield. At a minimum, have employees wear farm-dedicated clothing & footwear. Report any illness, particularly with respiratory, eye, and cold/flu symptoms, so they may seek medical attention.

Manage essential facility traffic. All delivery vehicles (feed, milk tankers, rendering) should use designated paths and parking areas that do not cross farm vehicle paths. Milk tankers require special consideration. Clean and disinfect any vehicles crossing farm vehicle paths.

Avoid sharing employees with other dairy or poultry operations. An enhanced biosecurity practice is for farm employees to use farm-specific boots and coveralls that never leave the dairy. This practice becomes even more important if you can’t prevent employees from having outside animal contact.



Dairy H5N1 Bird Flu Resources



CDFA H5N1 Bird Flu in Livestock



bit.ly/cdfaLivestockHPAI

Healthy Dairy HPAI Testing



bit.ly/cdfaHPAItesting

USDA Requirements & Recommendations for HPAI in Livestock



bit.ly/APHIS_HPAINLivestock

National Dairy FARM Biosecurity Homepage



bit.ly/FARMBiosecurityHomepage

FARM Dairy Cattle HPAI Biosecurity Recommendations



bit.ly/FARMdairyBiosecurity

CDPH Worker Protection from Bird Flu



bit.ly/cdphHPAIworkerProtection

Secure Milk Supply Enhanced Biosecurity Checklist



bit.ly/smsEnhancedBxChecklist

On-Farm C&D Milk Tankers Video



bit.ly/CD_MilkTankers

CDQAP Dairy Visitor Biosecurity



bit.ly/cdqapDairyVisitorBx