



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PO Box 330  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

EDWARD D. WENGRYN  
*Secretary*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lieutenant Governor*

### MEMO

**To:** Cattle Producers and Veterinarians

**From:** Amar Patil, DVM, MVSc, PhD Dipl. ACVM, Director, Division of Animal Health/State Veterinarian

**Date:** April 03, 2024

#### **RE: Update on HPAI in Cattle**

As state and federal animal health officials continue to monitor and assess the situation involving Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detections in dairy cattle, they have provided additional information and guidance. To date, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the detection of HPAI in dairy herds in Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico, and Texas. Samples from affected cattle in Kansas, New Mexico, Ohio, and Texas, considered to be presumptive positives, are undergoing confirmatory testing at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory. USDA has created a website ([HPAI Detections in Livestock](#)) to provide the latest information and cattle farmers in New Jersey are encouraged to monitor it to remain updated.

Farms containing multiple species, particularly cattle, and/or poultry, should uphold biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of disease spreading between animals. Farm staff and visitors should adhere to recommended precautions regarding contact with other animals and follow personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols. Cattle farms should identify areas of potential improvement in biosecurity, including limiting farm access to essential employees only, cleaning and disinfection of vehicles, implementing strategies for wild bird deterrent, and use of footbaths at barn entryways. Online resources, such as [Secure Milk Supply- Biosecurity](#) <https://securemilksupply.org/milk-producers/biosecurity/> and [CFSPH - Biosecurity](#), <https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/biosecurity/> can be utilized to tailor a farm-specific biosecurity plan.

Public health officials are monitoring the health and safety of people in contact with HPAI-infected animals. Recently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) announced that a farm worker at an affected dairy in Texas tested positive for HPAI ([Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\) Virus Infection Reported in a Person in the U.S. | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC](#)). Although uncommon, HPAI can affect people who have close contact with infected animals. This is only the second human case of HPAI infection in the United States.

There remains no food safety concern for the commercial milk supply, in which only pasteurized products are sold. Ingestion of raw milk, which can contain pathogens that may pose a health danger to consumers, is associated with a potential public health risk. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has provided

general guidance on its website ([FDA Raw Milk](#)) about consuming raw milk and specific information regarding milk safety during an HPAI outbreak [Questions and Answers Regarding Milk Safety During Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Outbreaks | FDA](#).

Cattle shipped interstate must follow the destination state regulations. In New Jersey, N.J.A.C. 2:3 Livestock and Poultry Importation ([N.J.A.C. 2:3](#)) outlines the requirements for interstate movement of livestock into the state. At this time, New Jersey has not placed any additional movement restrictions on cattle beyond the general requirements of testing for certain diseases and obtaining a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) to bring animals not destined for slaughter into New Jersey. Please do not move sick cattle across state lines. As the HPAI situation in cattle evolves, New Jersey may consider precautions to safeguard the state's livestock and poultry, including additional requirements for the shipment of livestock. At this time, Delaware, Kentucky, and North Carolina have instituted specific movement restrictions in response to this situation.

As a reminder, the clinical signs of HPAI in dairy cattle include decreased appetite, drop in milk production, thickened milk, abnormal feces, and fever. Dairy cattle showing these clinical signs should be reported to a veterinarian and the NJDA Division of Animal Health (DAH) at 609-671-6400. The NJDA Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory is a USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) approved laboratory to perform the HPAI testing in cattle and is ready to test samples as needed. At this time, testing beef cattle is not recommended.

A new guidance document, attached to this memo, may also be found online at: [USDA APHIS VS HPAI in Livestock Recommendations](#).