

HPAI DETECTION IN DAIRY CATTLE



BACKGROUND

On March 25, 2024, USDA announced that it had detected Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Texas and Kansas dairy herds.

SYMPTOMS

Dairy producers with affected animals have reported a rapid onset of illness.

Clinical signs may include:

- A sudden drop in feed intake with concurrent decrease in rumination.
- Sudden drop in milk production.
- Milk may become thick and yellow - colostrum like.
- Feces may be abnormal from tarry to dry.
- Some cows may experience a fever.
- Cows in second lactation or greater are more likely to be affected. However, any age may be affected.
- Most cows appear to recover after receiving supportive care.

REPORT SICK COWS

We strongly encourage dairy farmers, veterinarians, and other industry partners to quickly report any suspicious cattle illnesses to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship at 515-281-5305 so that we can expeditiously monitor and respond to any potential cases.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION WITH HERD VETERINARIANS

We urge dairy farmers to stay in close communication and coordination with their herd veterinarian regarding the health status of cattle including animals moving into the herd. Biosecurity practices should be reviewed and monitored. Dairy farmers should work closely with their veterinarian to review biosecurity.

FOOD SAFETY

- At this stage, USDA believes there is no concern about the safety of the commercial milk supply or that this circumstance poses any risk to consumer health.
- Dairies are required to send milk from only healthy animals into processing for human consumption.
- Milk from impacted animals is diverted or destroyed so that it does not enter the food supply.
- In addition, pasteurization has continually proven to inactivate bacteria and viruses, like influenza, in milk.
- Pasteurization is required for any milk entering interstate commerce.

The team at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will continue to actively monitor this rapidly evolving situation in close collaboration with USDA, other states, and industry stakeholders. Protecting Iowa's livestock farmers from foreign animal disease has been and will continue to be one of Secretary Naig's top priorities for the Department.

Last updated March 28, 2024