



July 15, 2025

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Dairy Cattle

### What does a lactating dairy cow infected with Influenza A virus (or HPAI) look like?

The USDA clinical case definition includes the following:

- Infected cattle may not display any visible signs or symptoms.
- Infected cattle may also show one or more of the following symptoms:
  - Decreased feed consumption and rumination
  - Sudden and/or severe drop in milk production
  - Severely affected cattle may have thicker, concentrated, colostrum-like milk or produce no milk at all.
  - Lethargy, dehydration, and fever
  - Respiratory signs including clear nasal discharge
  - Abnormal feces (can be tacky or loose)

The virus is predominantly found in milk and mammary tissue.

### What is HPAI?

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a contagious viral disease of domestic poultry and wild birds. HPAI is deadly to domestic poultry and can wipe out entire flocks within a matter of days. HPAI is a threat to the poultry industry, animal health, human health, trade, and the economy worldwide. In the US, HPAI has been detected in dairy cattle and other mammals, including humans.

### Federal Orders Issued to Limit Spread by USDA APHIS

April 24, 2024: requiring testing for dairy cattle moving across state lines (interstate movement).

December 6, 2024: requiring additional testing for HPAI including mandatory testing of bulk raw milk

To learn more about the Federal Orders visit the link below or use the QR code:  
[Federal Orders | APHIS](#)



### How can I prevent the spread of HPAI during show season?

- Consult with your veterinarian to discuss risks.
- Be familiar with the testing requirements. Interstate movement requirements, the destination state import requirements, and exhibition requirements can all be different.
- Be sure to keep all your test records and CVIs on hand and readily available.
- Be familiar with the signs and symptoms and watch your cattle closely – do not travel with sick cattle.
- If you have sick cattle at home do not transport other cattle off the property.
- Clean and disinfect any equipment before, during, and after the show.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.
- After returning home, isolate and observe animals that traveled to the show. Develop an isolation and monitoring plan with your veterinarian.

### For more information on Biosecurity and Recommended Best Practices visit:

#### [Enhance Biosecurity](#)



#### [Checklist Fair Exhibitors:](#)



For more information on HPAI in Dairy Cattle visit the USDA APHIS website [Secure Our Herds](#)

