

Fact Sheet: HPAI and Enhanced Biosecurity on Michigan Livestock Farms

April 19, 2024

Issue Summary

- The detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle is a significant and troubling development as the agricultural industry guards against the spread of this disease.
- MABA advises businesses calling on Michigan farms – **for example, those in the feed, agronomy and transportation fields** – to stay up-to-date on this issue and be aware of new biosecurity measures being implemented on farms.
- We encourage communication with customers to ensure biosecurity measures are followed.

Background

For several years, HPAI has posed a major threat to U.S. poultry farms. Identification of the disease on a poultry farm results in the depopulation of the farm. Poultry farms in Michigan and across America have operated under highly enhanced biosecurity protocols for many years.

Unfortunately, the identification of HPAI in U.S. dairy cattle in recent weeks, including in Michigan, has opened a new chapter in the effort to contain its spread. In addition to negative economic impacts on affected dairy farms, there is concern about new vectors of transmission, and the continued major impact of HPAI on poultry. Dairy farmers in Michigan are taking new steps to enhance biosecurity on their farms. Measures you may encounter could include tire and truck wash stations, boot sanitation, and new limits on interacting with farms.

While HPAI remains a top-priority animal health challenge, the consumer milk supply remains safe because products are pasteurized before entering the market, per the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

MABA Member Actions

You can play an important role as the livestock industry continues to enact biosecurity measures. We encourage those visiting farms to focus on awareness, communication, and collaboration:

- **Up-to-date awareness of this evolving issue is key.** Take a moment to review HPAI developments, especially the increased focus on dairy cattle infections. Links from state and federal sources are listed at www.miagbiz.org/HPAI.
- **Proactive communication with customers is important.** Calling ahead goes a long way. In recent days MABA has heard appreciation from farmers about feed and ag retail businesses reaching out to ask about any existing or new biosecurity measures they may have put in place.
- **Follow posted biosecurity measures.** Visitors to Michigan farms must be aware and follow biosecurity measures established by the farm. While the poultry industry has operated under enhanced protocols for some time, we anticipate substantial new efforts by dairy farms with the recent identification of HPAI in dairy cattle. You may encounter new protocols that were not previously in place. It is always important to wear clean clothing and footwear, and maintain clean equipment in addition to any farm-specific protocols.

www.miagbiz.org/HPAI

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