

Managing Birds on Your Farm During HPAI: Considerations and Resources

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a disease that is caused by avian influenza A (H5) and A (H7) viruses. HPAI is also known as bird flu or avian flu. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “a multi-state outbreak of HPAI A(H5N1) bird flu in dairy cows was first reported on March 25, 2024. This is the first time that these bird flu viruses were found in cattle.”

Cornell CALS Institute for Food Safety HPAI Take-Home Messages

- This is the first reported spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in cows, we are still learning how the virus is transmitted and how this impacts the animal and public health.
- Dairy farms are segregating cows showing signs of illness, limiting potential viral loads in raw milk.
- If HPAI virus is present in raw milk it is expected to be inactivated by milk pasteurization as less heat intensive pasteurization practices used in other foods have been shown to effectively reduce HPAI viral loads.
- Viral remnants (e.g., genetic material) from inactivated HPAI virus can still be detected using PCR in pasteurized milk; however, this presence does not represent a public health risk because only live, infectious virus can cause an illness.

Managing Birds: Considerations

Farmers are encouraged to implement [enhanced biosecurity practices*](#) to limit any contact of dairy cows with live or dead birds that could potentially be infected with HPAI. (There are other action steps farmers can take, click [here*](#) for more information found under “What Should Dairy Producers Do?” tab.)

Strategies to manage birds are regulated under state and federal laws. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization (i.e. a [permit](#)) by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

New York State Environmental Laws regulate [“taking” of animals*](#). (“Take” or “taking” means to pursue, shoot, hunt, kill, capture, trap, snare or net wildlife and game; or perform acts that disturb or worry wildlife, according to the NYS DEC)

Visit [this NYS DEC webpage*](#) to see a simple table about managing different nuisance animals on your farm. For example, according to [this NYS DEC website*](#), a person can take a European starling that is a nuisance or damaging property; however, a person needs a federal permit to take a duck that is a nuisance or damaging property.







* On the backside of this factsheet are more resources to help manage birds.

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Managing Birds: Resources

Below is a table with the title of the resources in the left column, description in the middle, and QR code in the right column. Electronic links are embedded in the titles; to visit the links, place your cursor over the link, hold down the “ctrl” key and left click with your mouse- a new web page should open on your computer.

The QR Code can be used as another method to be directed to the same internet resource. Use your smartphone or other optical image reader to utilize the QR Codes.

Resources (with link)	Description	QR Code
Cornell CALS Institute for Food Safety HPAI website	The IFS@CU has created a webpage gathering HPAI information for the dairy industry and consumers. Including webinar discussions and more information.	
Cornell CALS Institute for Food Safety HPAI Fact Sheet	The IFS@CU HPAI Fact Sheet. Including important Messages; HPAI facts; Risk in Milk and Dairy Products; Dairy Producers Call to Action; Additional Resources.	
Cornell CALS Institute for Food Safety HPAI hoja information version en espanol	Virus de la Influenza Aviar Altamente Patogénico (HPAI, por sus siglas en inglés) Hoja Informativa para la Industria Láctea y sus Consumidores	
AABP Working Group Dairy Biosecurity Recommendations – HPAI and More	Dairy Biosecurity Recommendations – HPAI and More. Including Spread of Virus; Focus Areas; Protecting Dairy from Exposure; Vehicles: Livestock Trucks/Trailers; Wildlife Management; Preventing Cattle/Calf Exposure; Managing Sick Animals; Precautions; Disinfectants; Additional Resources.	
NYS DEC Remove or “Take” Nuisance Animals Legally (webpage with table)	This NYS DEC “Remove or “Take” Nuisance Animals Legally webpage. Includes Identify If You Need A Permit or License; summarizes Taking During Recreational Sporting Seasons; Relocating an Animal; Tables to Identify if You Need a Permit, including a table (1/2 way down the page) “Birds Commonly Causing Conflicts (in alphabetical order)”	
USDA APHIS HPAI Improving Biosecurity with Wildlife Management Practices: Preventing Access to Barns and Other Facilities	Department of Agriculture USDA APHIS information Improving Biosecurity with Wildlife Management Practices: Preventing Access to Barns and Other Facilities. Includes Inspecting Structures, Plug Holes and Burrows, Install Barrier, Netting, and Other Deterrents.	

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