



H5N1 Protocol: What To Do if H5N1 Is Confirmed on Your Dairy Farm

Provided by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

This document is intended to serve as a general reference for industry. However, individual needs and response actions may differ for H5N1 detections, depending on the operation and specific circumstances.

As of April 23, 2025, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), or H5N1, has not been detected in Wisconsin cattle herds.

Detecting H5N1

- To report a suspected disease, contact DATCP's Division of Animal Health by:
 - Email at DATCPAnimalImports@wisconsin.gov.
 - Phone (608) 224-4872 (weekdays 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or 800-943-0003 (evenings, weekends, and holidays).
- Rapid response measures are implemented on infected farms, including epidemiologic investigation, enhanced biosecurity, and contact tracing.
- All detections of H5N1 are required to be reported to state and federal authorities within one day.

Quarantine of Farm After H5N1 Detection

- Infected farms will be placed under quarantine to prevent the spread of H5N1.
- The quarantine will require implementation of enhanced biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of transmission of disease from infected farms.
- Bulk milk intended for pasteurization will **not** be restricted under quarantine.
- Milk not intended for pasteurization (e.g. raw or waste milk) will require an approved virus inactivation process prior to disposal and cannot be moved off a quarantined premises without a Department-issued permit.
- After an epidemiologic investigation has been conducted, movement of non-lactating animals may be allowed under a Department-issued permit.
- Federal order [guidance](#) prohibits the movement of lactating dairy cattle from infected farms.
- Lactating cull cows must be dried off and no longer producing milk, prior to a movement directly to slaughter.

Additional Information for Next Steps

- Cooperate with epidemiological investigations and provide necessary information.
- Serial negative results from bulk tank milk will help determine when a quarantine shall be released.
- Quarantines in other states with infected dairy herds have been in place for typically about 60-90 days. The course and stage of the infection will vary, and epidemiologic investigation and laboratory test results will help predict the stage of a herd infection.
- Follow the guidance provided by state veterinarians and federal authorities.



What to Know

- [Federal financial assistance](#) is available to offset costs and losses due to H5N1, as well as fund preventative measures.
- Strong [biosecurity](#) practices are crucial to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) can be [requested](#) from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services medical stockpile and advises those working with animals per [CDC guidance](#).
- Farms can evaluate their current practices and consider changes now to reduce the risk of this disease.

Confidentiality of Farm Name and Other Records

- Certain federal and Department records may be exempt from public dissemination pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 8791 and the Privacy Act of 1974, to the extent the Department is acting or operating under an anticipated cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Records generated under state authority are subject to release under the Wisconsin public records law, consistent with past disease responses, including the farm name. Certain livestock premises registration information, financial information, trade secret information, or information that pertains to individual milk producer production, milk fat and other component tests and quality records may fall under confidentiality provisions in Wis. Stat. §§ 95.51(5) and 97.22(10), and Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 65.48.

Wisconsin Farm Center Available

- The DATCP Wisconsin Farm Center has free and confidential services available for farmers and their families. Contact the Wisconsin Farm Center at (800) 942-2474 or farmcenter@wisconsin.gov.
- The Wisconsin Farm Center includes the Farmer Wellness Program services such as the 24/7 Farmer Wellness Helpline, tele-counseling, and counseling vouchers. Contact the 24/7 Wisconsin Farmer Wellness Helpline at (888) 901-2558.