



CDQAP Advisory on HPAI: Resources for Producers

Friday, September 6, 2024

Dear CDQAP Industry, Regulatory and Academic Partners,

Last week CDFA announced [confirmation](#) of HPAI H5N1 (“Bird Flu”) on three California dairies. As additional herd testing and epidemiology studies are completed, more herds that have not yet demonstrated clinical symptoms may be identified. One advantage for California is that the state has not experienced the virus circulating within its borders for months before we understood what was causing it, let alone how to prevent it or treat it.

Producers are understandably asking what they should do to protect their herds and employees and where to go for additional information.

Attached or linked to this email:

- **Protecting Your Herd: 10 Action Items** - While there is no single “Silver Bullet” which ensures complete protection from the virus, the attached CDQAP document summarizes the most effective action items producers can take, based on our current understanding of the virus.
- **Where to go to get Free Worker PPE** – The attached CDPH notification describes the reopening of the free PPE distribution program for farms that test positive. Some trade organizations may be working to facilitate transfer.
- **Protecting Dairy Employees** - The California Department of Industrial Relations document explains required programs for Avian Influenza. Importantly, you can anticipate that it will not be the Cal-DIR which first visits about employees, but rather the local county health department. These local departments will assist producers with training and equipping employees. These departments have a surprising amount of expertise in this arena because of the numerous HPAI outbreaks on California poultry farms. Training materials from CDC are also available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Above all, ensure that employees don’t consume bulk tank milk.
- **CDQAP Media Messages** - These messages explain how the joint USDA-CDFA Incident Management Team is addressing the outbreak. While potentially useful to producer & processor organizations, they do not necessarily represent the views of UCD, CDFA, or CMAB.



- **Training employees to recognize infection** - The faster cows are identified as infected, the sooner they can be segregated from uninfected cows and treated with oral fluids and anti-inflammatory drugs such as flunixin or aspirin. Segregation and treatment helps mitigate within-herd spread and increases the odds that a cow will come back into milk and not culled. Attached are two flyers developed by AABP and NMPF for dairy employees in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The first pages covers general biosecurity and the second page includes a table with symptoms for HPAI.
- **Financial Support for Infected and Uninfected Herds** – There is some [financial assistance](#) available to uninfected herds and much more assistance for those farms confirmed positive. This USDA document explains how much funding is available for what.
- **Effective oral treatment for clinical cows** – Anecdotal reports from other states suggest that aggressive oral fluid therapy (“drenching”) can minimize dehydration in clinical cows and speed recovery, returning them to something approaching previous production levels and minimizing culls. Your herd veterinarian can help develop a [homemade](#) non-alkalinizing oral electrolyte solution that can be mixed inexpensively on the farm. 20 liters (roughly 5 gallons) can be pumped into the rumen in a matter of minutes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I will be in remote Alaska all of next week and will have no ability to communicate. Producers with questions understandably will first contact their trade organization or processor. The following contact information will be useful for additional information:

- **For media requests for University of California – Davis experts:** Go to this [site](#).
- **For media requests to CDFA:** Steve Lyle OfficeOfPublicAffairs@cdfa.ca.gov 916.654.0462 They have extra people monitoring this number and will email to facilitate a timely response. All requests for interviews with Dr. Jones or other CDFA experts need to go through Steve.
- **For the producer, processor, or trade organization needing to contact CDFA:** Dr. Laura Bradley hpainfo@cdfa.ca.gov 916.217.7517 Dr. Bradley is CDFA’s current Public Information Officer for HPAI and extraordinarily knowledgeable.
- **Confused about who to call?** Sonia Brown Sonia.Brown@cdfa.ca.gov 909-219-1029 or 909-947-4462. Sonia is CDFA’s Emergency Preparedness & Response Manager and is remarkably effective at getting inquiries to the right person.

As always, thanks to all our CDQAP partners for their continued support of our program.

Michael Payne, Denise Mullinax and Deanne Meyer