



**April 3, 2024**

## PennAg Industries Association to Host Industry Conference Call on April 5 to Give Health Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Dairy Cattle

**HARRISBURG, Pa.**--- Many farmers raise multiple livestock species, including dairy cattle and poultry. With the confirmation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in two extensive commercial egg facilities and dairy cattle herds in Ohio, Michigan, Idaho, Texas, and Kansas from wild birds posing an increased biosecurity risk to these livestock farms.

PennAg Industries Association is hosting an Industry call on Friday, April 5, at 9 a.m. EST to provide updates on the situation and what it means for poultry and dairy stakeholders and service professionals.

No cases of HPAI have been reported in Pennsylvania at this time. The state continues to monitor the rapidly evolving health situation in dairy cattle to prepare for any cases that might emerge. Currently, Pennsylvania is one of four states to place restrictions and enact quarantine periods for dairy cattle being transported in and out of the state to reduce the virus's risk to the milk supply.

HPAI also has the potential to affect people in close contact with infected animals.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) confirmed that a person in Texas with influenza A(H5N1) viruses was an employee of a dairy farm with infected dairy cattle. This is the second U.S. person to be reported to test positive for H5N1. In 2022, a person in Colorado tested positive.

"Now is the time to start taking additional precautions," says Nan Hanshaw, Chief of the Animal Health Division at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Health. Anyone with dairy animals and poultry on one farm should take additional biosecurity precautions to protect their animals from infection."

Farmers and farm employees should review biosecurity plans and practices. This includes asking employees, family members, and visitors, including contractors, to be mindful of their footprint, such as asking if they have recently been on dairy farms or have not had close contact with someone working on a dairy farm.

Individuals working with poultry and livestock, including Certified Poultry Technicians and service technicians, should ensure that their biosecurity practices are as good as possible to prevent the spread of disease.

Individuals who wish to join the call or have questions about the disease, including transmission, what it means for Pennsylvania agriculture, and how to incorporate suitable biosecurity measures should reach out to Chloe Patrick, Council Director, via email at [cpatrick@pennag.com](mailto:cpatrick@pennag.com)

For more farmers looking for information on dairy biosecurity tools, visit:

[https://securemilksupply.org/or\\_vs-recommendations-hpai-livestock.pdf](https://securemilksupply.org/or_vs-recommendations-hpai-livestock.pdf) ([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov))



### **About PennAg Industries Association**

PennAg Industries Association (PennAg) is the premier agribusiness association in Pennsylvania. PennAg is a full-time, full-service membership association representing Pennsylvania agribusinesses of all sizes and types that support and serve the entire food chain. Learn more about at [PennAg.com](http://PennAg.com).

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