

Biosecurity Reminder – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Agricultural Exhibitions, Fairs, Petting Zoos and Comingling Events

For the agricultural fair season in Ontario, please be reminded of biosecurity protocols to protect livestock and humans from exposure to disease. **This includes highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which continues to be a threat to wildlife and domestic poultry in Ontario. HPAI has been detected in dairy cows and other livestock in the United States and can be a risk to human health.**

At the time of this publication HPAI has not been detected in cattle in Canada, however, controlling disease and protecting animal and human health relies on everyone working together. We encourage all animal owners attending events to please follow and share the following recommendations.

Travel History: Check with animal owners attending the event to see if they or their livestock have visited a farm in the [United States that has had a positive detection of HPAI](#). If this is the case, the animal owner and their livestock should **not be allowed** to participate in the event.

Vaccination & Testing: Request proof of vaccination against common diseases (e.g., BVD, IBR, BRSV, PI3 for cattle) and rabies for all cattle/horses/sheep that may be in contact with the public. Consider requesting proof of a negative HPAI test for lactating dairy cows participating in the event, [obtained in collaboration with the animal owner's veterinarian](#) (tested within 7 days prior to the event). Animal owners are **strongly recommended to get seasonal influenza vaccine** (when available in the fall).

Biosecurity: Clean and disinfect tack, feeders, waterers, equipment and show supplies before and after bringing them to the fair or show. Do not share equipment with other participants.

Monitor Animal Health: Monitor animals during the fair for signs of illness (e.g., loss of appetite, fever, fatigue, cough, drop in milk production, abnormal milk, etc). If you suspect illness, immediately contact the fair veterinarian or fair manager, segregate sick animals and avoid close contact with sick animals. If HPAI is suspected in an animal, contact your [local Canadian Food Inspection Agency district office](#).

Monitor Public Health: Animal owners and event attendees are reminded to stay home and away from their animals if they have symptoms of respiratory illness.

Further information is available on the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Considerations and Information for Fair Organizers to Help Prevent Influenza webpage](#).

Biosecurity Recommendations for Milk

- Never offer raw (unpasteurized) milk or milk products to visitors or other animals.
- Do not spill, dump or discard milk in undesignated places (e.g., on the ground). Milk must be collected in tanks designed to collect milk from lactating cows. Always dispose of milk from sick animals in accordance with current regulations.
- Wear [appropriate personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#): protective clothing, gloves, goggles and a respirator or well-fitting mask that covers your mouth and nose.
- Do not share milking equipment between cows. If unavoidable, ensure equipment has been fully cleaned and disinfected prior to use.