



Avian Influenza in cattle – Protect our Flocks

While highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) primarily occurs in wild birds and has been infecting domestic poultry in Canada since late 2021, new detections of HPAI have been found in US dairy cattle.

There have been no detections of avian influenza in Canadian dairy cattle. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is monitoring the US situation carefully and has implemented import restrictions on lactating US dairy cows.

While there have been no bovine detections of avian influenza in Canada, this is a great time to evaluate biosecurity practices and review compliance across your team of workers and service providers, especially on farms with multiple species.

In the US, there has been evidence of virus transmission from infected lactating cows to other animals including cows, cats, and poultry.² Exactly how HPAI is spreading from infected cattle to poultry is still unknown. However, it is known that raw milk from infected cows is a high-risk material², and transmission [via people and equipment is possible](#).

This situation is changing quickly as new data and information becomes available. What hasn't changed is the importance of biosecurity: vigilance in implementing good biosecurity on farms, each and every day, is important for protecting not only your flocks, but those of your neighbouring farms as well.

Extra Biosecurity for Farms with Multi-Species

Any contaminated surface can be a vector to transmit the virus.

Farms with poultry and livestock should take extra precautions to prevent cross contamination:

- Keep poultry away from livestock.
- Don't share equipment between barns.
- Different farm personnel should be used in the dairy and poultry barns.
- If farm personnel must go between the dairy and poultry barns, then each time they should:
 - Change footwear upon entering the poultry barn (as is currently required),
 - Change clothing prior to entering the poultry barn, and
 - Wash hands thoroughly prior to entering the poultry barn.
- Keep livestock away from ponds and wild waterfowl.
- Monitor livestock for symptoms and report illnesses immediately to your veterinarian.
- Refer to [CFIA's guidance](#) for more information.

References:

1. Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 2024. Commercial milk sampling and testing for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viral fragments in Canada. Accessed May 17 2024. [Available online](#)
2. World Organization for Animal Health, 2024. High pathogenicity avian influenza in cattle. Accessed May 14, 2024. [Available online](#).