



To: On-farm services providers

Date: April 9, 2024

Objective: Update on Guidance on biosecurity measures for farm visits (2nd note)

**Guidance subject to updates as we learn more about the transmission of the virus.*

The progression of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI¹) in cattle requires heightened biosecurity measures at the farm. HPAI has not been found in dairy cattle in Canada to date.

As we still know little about this emerging disease and how it spreads, biosecurity measures recommended below aim to cover various possibilities of transmission.

Information from the CFIA

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has developed a [new page to keep consumers, farmers and veterinarians](#) informed of how this disease evolves and biosecurity measures that help mitigate risks.

Milk Safety and Quality:

- Only milk from healthy animals is authorized for distribution and for human consumption.
- Pasteurization, which is mandatory in Canada has continually proven to inactivate bacteria and viruses in milk.
- Pasteurization kills harmful bacteria and viruses while retaining the milk's nutritional properties and ensures that the milk we drink is safe.

Information for Service Providers on Farms

DFC has shared advice to dairy farmers to heighten vigilance and biosecurity measures. This document is for stakeholders who need to go on farms (veterinarians, hoof trimmers, repair persons, feed delivery, and others). The advice is based on the proAction biosecurity measures and guidance from CFIA.

To limit transmission from person/equipment to cows:

- Avoid entering a barn if it's not necessary.

¹ Some may also refer to it as bovine influenza A.



- If you must go inside, wear clean and disinfected boots (or disposable boots) upon entering barn.
- Disinfect equipment before arriving on farm.
- Wear new clean clothes or disposable biosecurity combination on each farm.
- Visit young, healthy cattle first with the sick cattle being visited last.
- Disinfect boots and equipment after being in the sick area.
- Avoid going on farms if you have been on U.S. farms. If absolutely necessary, use extra caution in applying strict biosecurity measures.

To limit risk of carrying organic matter with virus inside a barn:

- Use only a visibly clean vehicle for deliveries or visits to farms. Avoid contamination to vehicle's tires, axles, or footsteps.
- Drive slowly in the yard and avoid puddles, mud or manure.
- Avoid parking near barns with animals inside.
- Avoid contamination on one's clothing, gloves, soles of their shoes. Wear clean and disinfected boots (or disposable boots) upon entering barn.

To limit risk of transmission from cow to yourself:

- Do not go near sick animals.
- If you must, to reduce risks, wear gloves and mask when handling a sick animal. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth until washing hands.
- Remove clothing worn around sick animals to be washed.

Signs to watch for on the farm

If farmers mention the following symptoms in cows, encourage them to contact their herd vet immediately. They will then reach out to authorities if necessary.

- Decreased herd level milk production;
- Acute sudden drop in production with some severely impacted cows experiencing thicker, concentrated, colostrum like milk;
- Decrease in feed consumption with a simultaneous drop in rumen motility; and
- Abnormal tacky or loose feces, and some fever.