

Overview of Michigan's HPAI Response

As of June 5, 2024

- The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and several other state, federal, and local agencies continue to thoroughly and robustly respond to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detections in dairy cows and poultry.
 - This virus does not stop at county or state lines, which is why every Michigander must be aware of this disease and actively take steps to prevent its spread.
 - We must all be on high alert. This is an all-hands-on deck-approach.
- The situation with [HPAI in Michigan](#) mirrors what is happening in states nationwide.
 - All affected states are in regular communication with each other and federal partners to better understand how this virus is transmitted and combat this disease.
- Following a Federal Order put in place by the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), Michigan was the first state to go above and beyond these requirements to further protect animal and human health.
- To start, Michigan made HPAI a reportable animal disease for all species in the state, requiring MDARD to be notified within 24 hours.
- On Wednesday, May 1, MDARD Director Boring signed a Determination of Extraordinary Emergency, [HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order \(HRRRO\)](#) in response to Michigan's ongoing HPAI outbreak.
- This order took effect on May 8 and implemented the critical steps necessary to further protect Michigan's livestock industry by requiring enhanced biosecurity measures for producers with cattle herds and limiting opportunities for the comingling of animals in situations posing a risk.
- Regardless of the species, [biosecurity is the best tool](#) animal owners have to protect against HPAI, which is why MDARD is requiring producers to tighten up all biosecurity measures to reduce the possibility of introducing the virus and causing it to spread.
 - "Biosecurity" means to take steps to reduce the risk of being exposed to and/or spreading disease.
- MDARD urges producers to closely monitor their animals' health and contact their veterinarian immediately if they have any animal health-related concerns and/or for help refining their biosecurity plans.

Overview of Composting

- Michigan's current response to HPAI detected in poultry requires the depopulation of all birds, disposal of eggs, and removal of all organic matter like feed, manure, and hay on the premises.
- Since dairy cattle are impacted by HPAI differently than poultry species, the response required is also different.
- With appropriate treatment, dairy cattle can recover from the virus and depopulation is not required.
- Depopulation best practices are set by USDA.
- Those best practices are followed at all impacted locations being handled by MDARD.
- Composting and landfill disposal have been deemed a safe and effective way to dispose of poultry carcasses.

- Composting has been successfully used throughout the United States for several years to control HPAI outbreaks.
- Composting, a natural biological heating process, is a safe and effective method for microorganisms to degrade organic resources.
- This process disposes of poultry carcasses and eliminates the avian influenza virus, making it a valuable tool in disease control.
- Composting will kill the avian influenza virus.
- Through composting, surrounding areas may experience an increase in strong odors.
- While these odors are unpleasant and inconvenient, there is NO cause for environmental or health concerns to the public.
- As time goes on, the odors will decrease.