

Emergency Management in Action: H5N1 in Dairy Cattle

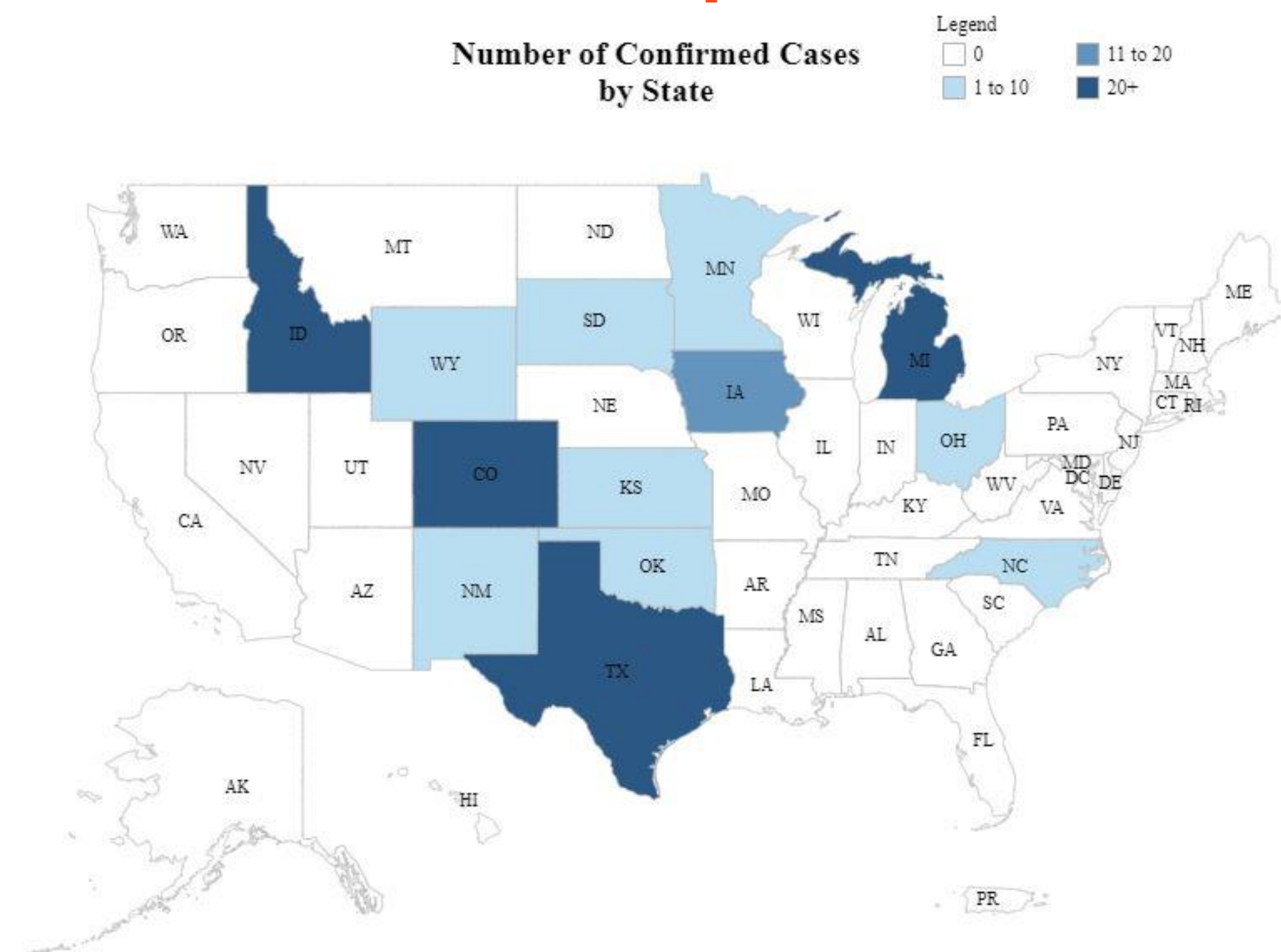
August 2024

Background

- **March 25th, 2024:** Samples of milk from sick cattle from Kansas and Texas test positive for H5N1 or highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).
- **Clinical signs:** sudden drop in feed intake; marked drop in milk production with severely affected cows having thickened or no milk; and respiratory signs including clear nasal discharge.
- About **ten percent of each affected herd appeared impacted**, with little to no associated mortality.
- Farms reported deceased wild birds on their properties. The **detections appear to have been introduced by wild birds**.
- Initial testing indicated that the **risk to the public was low**.
- USDA took swift action to trace animal movements, assessing disease prevalence in herds, and initiating various testing activities to confirm the safety of the meat and milk supplies alongside federal partners.



Situation Update



Outbreak as of August 1, 2024

Protecting Public Health and Food Supply

- Dairies are required to **only send milk from healthy animals for human consumption**.
- **Milk from impacted animals is diverted or destroyed** so that it does not enter the food supply.
- **Pasteurization** is proven to inactivate bacteria and viruses, like influenza, in milk.
- APHIS **urges producer participation in public health assessments** to continue to confirm worker safety and monitor for any potential changes in the virus that could impact transmissibility.

Immediate Recommendations

- **Monitoring for Sick Animals:** Producers should monitor herds closely for cattle with clinical signs of disease.
- **Movement of Cattle:** Movement of cattle should be minimized; movement of cattle should be focused on preventing movement of disease.
- **Vehicles, Equipment, and People on the Farm:** Producers should limit the movement of vehicles and visitors on and off livestock and poultry premises and establish dedicated routes for vehicles that do come onto the premises.
- **Wildlife Management:** Producers should monitor and report any odd behaviors and die offs in domestic and wild animals immediately.

New Requirements

- **Mandatory Testing for Interstate Movement of Dairy Cattle**
 - Prior to interstate movement, lactating dairy cattle are required to receive a negative test for Influenza A virus at an approved lab.
 - Cattle with a positive test are not eligible for interstate movement for 30 days. After 30 days, animals must be tested again for movement.
- **Mandatory Reporting**
 - Laboratories and state veterinarians must report positive Influenza A detection in livestock to USDA APHIS.

Stopping the Spread

Transparency

- A key component of any animal disease outbreak is **maintaining transparency** with the public, trading partners, and international standard setting organizations like WOAH.
- Outbreak of H5N1 was **immediately reported to WOAH** via WAHIS notification
- To maximize understanding and research on H5N1 in dairy cattle, **APHIS published 239 genetic sequences** from the U.S. H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b influenza virus associated with the ongoing HPAI outbreak in poultry and wild birds, and the recent H5N1 event in dairy cattle.

Public Facing Material

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Checklist for Fair Exhibitors: Help Stop the Spread of Influenza A During Fairs and Exhibitions

- 1 Follow the Event's Biosecurity Plan**
Ask the event organizer for a copy of the plan if one was not provided to you. Avoid close contact with other exhibitor's animals and avoid nose-to-nose contact between animals. Also follow the event guidance for handling milk from lactating cows.
- 2 Clean and Disinfect Equipment Often**
Clean and disinfect any equipment you bring to the event and repeat the process once you return home. Use disinfectants effective against Influenza A viruses that are safe for human and animal contact. For more information, go to www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-avian-influenza.
- 3 Don't Share Equipment**
Don't share tools, feed and water, portable milking equipment and supplies, or grooming supplies with other exhibitors.
- 4 Observe Animals Closely**
Carefully observe cattle for signs of influenza-like illness before, during, and after the event. Signs include decreased milk production, reduced appetite, thickened or discolored milk, lethargy, fever, and/or dehydration. Report sick cattle to animal health officials.
- 5 Stay Home If You Are Sick**
Ensure any people that will exhibit at the event do not have any symptoms of illness. If you have any animals with clinical signs, consult your veterinarian.
- 6 See a Doctor if Symptoms Occur**
Consult a health care provider and State public health officials if you or your family develop symptoms of influenza-like illness; tell your health care provider that you work with dairy cattle. For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/flu/other/fair-exhibitors-information.html.
- 7 Learn More**
For more information about influenza A and other protective measures, go to www.aphis.usda.gov and click on HPAI Detections in Dairy Herds on the home page. Scan the QR code for more information about minimizing influenza transmission at dairy cattle exhibitions, including animal movement guidance.

Way Forward

- USDA continues to take steps to **protect the health of livestock**.
- The Department continues to work closely with federal partners at the CDC on **protecting the health of people** and FDA on **protecting the safety of the food supply**.
- The U.S. government is committed to addressing this situation with **urgency and transparency**.

Recommendations to be displayed at dairy cattle shows

Source: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock>