

September 18, 2024

INDUSTRY NOTICE: HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN U.S. DAIRY CATTLE UPDATE FOR SWINE PRODUCERS

As many producers are likely aware, in March 2024, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), also known as H5N1, has been detected in dairy cattle across at least 13 states in the U.S. Milk sampling across the U.S. has detected the presence of viral genetic material, though pasteurization is known to inactivate the virus. **To date, no Canadian herds or milk products have tested positive.**

As influenza is a virus that can move between species, we urge producers to be aware of the risks of commingling species on farm, as well as the risk of feeding unpasteurized milk or milk by-products such as whey to your pigs.

If you do choose to feed these products to your pigs, we recommend checking with your suppliers that they have been pasteurized before products are purchased as this will ensure that no viable virus is present that could be transmitted to your pigs. Products that are confirmed to be only “heat treated” will still pose a risk to your pigs.

To help prevent the introduction of influenza and other diseases into your barn, producers should consider the following where possible:

- Limit access on your farm to essential visits only and avoid entering the barn if you are sick
- Have dedicated clothing for staff and visitors while inside the barn
- Shower in and out whenever possible; at a minimum, set up a Danish entry system
- Ensure all trailers are cleaned and disinfected before arriving at the barn whenever possible and assume any truck or trailer could be positive for pathogens
- ***Report all potential cases to your veterinarian as soon as possible.***
- Consider manure movement and the potential to spread disease through these processes to other hog barns within close proximity. Do not share or lend manure equipment to others without knowing their pigs’ health status first.
- Ensure rodents, ***birds*** and other wildlife are not able to enter barns
- ***Avoid co-mingling pigs with other species;*** if you have other animals on farm, ensure their housing systems are separated as much as possible
- If a barn tests positive for influenza virus, notify partners/service providers when appropriate to allow for increased biosecurity

Symptoms of Influenza in pigs can include:

- Fever, weakness
- Eye/nasal discharge
- Coughing
- All ages can be affected with rapid onset of symptoms (12-48h)
- Usually, infected pigs appear sick for a few days to a few weeks and get better with influenza virus alone (co-infections can make symptoms worse and last longer).

If you have additional questions or concerns, please reach out to info@swinehealthontario.ca. Biosecurity resources can be found here: www.swinehealthontario.ca/Biosecurity.