



Nourishing Today
Sustaining Tomorrow

Talking Points on HPAI in Dairy Cows in US and the Safety of US Beef

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- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cows in the United States.
- State animal health officials are working with USDA to monitor and evaluate reported cases of HPAI in dairy cattle and complete epidemiological investigations to determine the nature of the disease spread.
- The confirmation of HPAI in dairy cows highlights the importance of biosecurity practices to reduce the potential for domestic animals to contract HPAI from migratory birds. Packers practice biosecurity procedures to help limit disease spread when animals arrive at slaughter establishments.
- Additional domestic species beyond commercial and back yard poultry flocks have been confirmed to have HPAI, including a goat that shared the same pasture and water source as a poultry flock.
- HPAI is not a food safety concern. Consumers cannot contract HPAI from properly prepared meat. Proper food handling prevents HPAI transmission and includes: Washing hands before handling raw meat products; preventing cross-contamination of raw meat with other foods; washing materials used to cut and prepare meat with hot, soapy water; and using a food thermometer to ensure that meat has reached a safe internal temperature to kill foodborne germs which could include viruses like HPAI.