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HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI): WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DAIRY CATTLE AND POULTRY

The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus affects several types of animals, primarily migratory birds and domestic poultry. It has also been isolated from seals, raccoons, and skunks. HPAI has been identified in ruminants such as goats and dairy cattle, which has prompted producers to enhance biosecurity and disinfection measures.

Below, explore information about HPAI and tips to safeguard your animals and business.

Virus basics

- Animals infected with HPAI shed virus in their mucus, saliva, and manure.
- The virus can be stable in organic matter such as manure.
- HPAI is susceptible to most disinfectants and detergents once the organic matter (manure) is removed. Cleaning boots and farm equipment to remove manure before disinfecting is essential!

Why is HPAI concerning?

Migratory birds spread the HPAI virus to a new region by leaving behind manure loaded with virus. The virus can be passed to poultry when they interact with wild birds, their manure, or items contaminated with manure. In poultry, HPAI can cause several clinical signs

including respiratory distress and sudden unexplained death. Additionally, affected birds must be depopulated according to USDA guidelines.

When dairy cattle are infected with HPAI, their symptoms are milder. However, affected herds show decreased feed intake and milk production, with about 10% of cows showing more severe signs. These cows produce thickened, abnormal milk and often have dry, tacky manure.

Biosecurity on mixed animal farms

- On farms with poultry and dairy cattle, biosecurity practices must be increased.
- Separation is key—use different workers for poultry and dairy. If workers are crossing into both areas, then dedicated footwear for poultry and dedicated footwear for dairy must be used.
- When possible, discourage the presence of migratory birds.

Report suspected HPAI signs

Producers should monitor their poultry and dairy cattle for clinical signs of disease. If they are present, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at **717-772-2852**.



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PREVENT HPAI: KEEP YOUR DAIRY HERD SEPARATED FROM YOUR FLOCK!

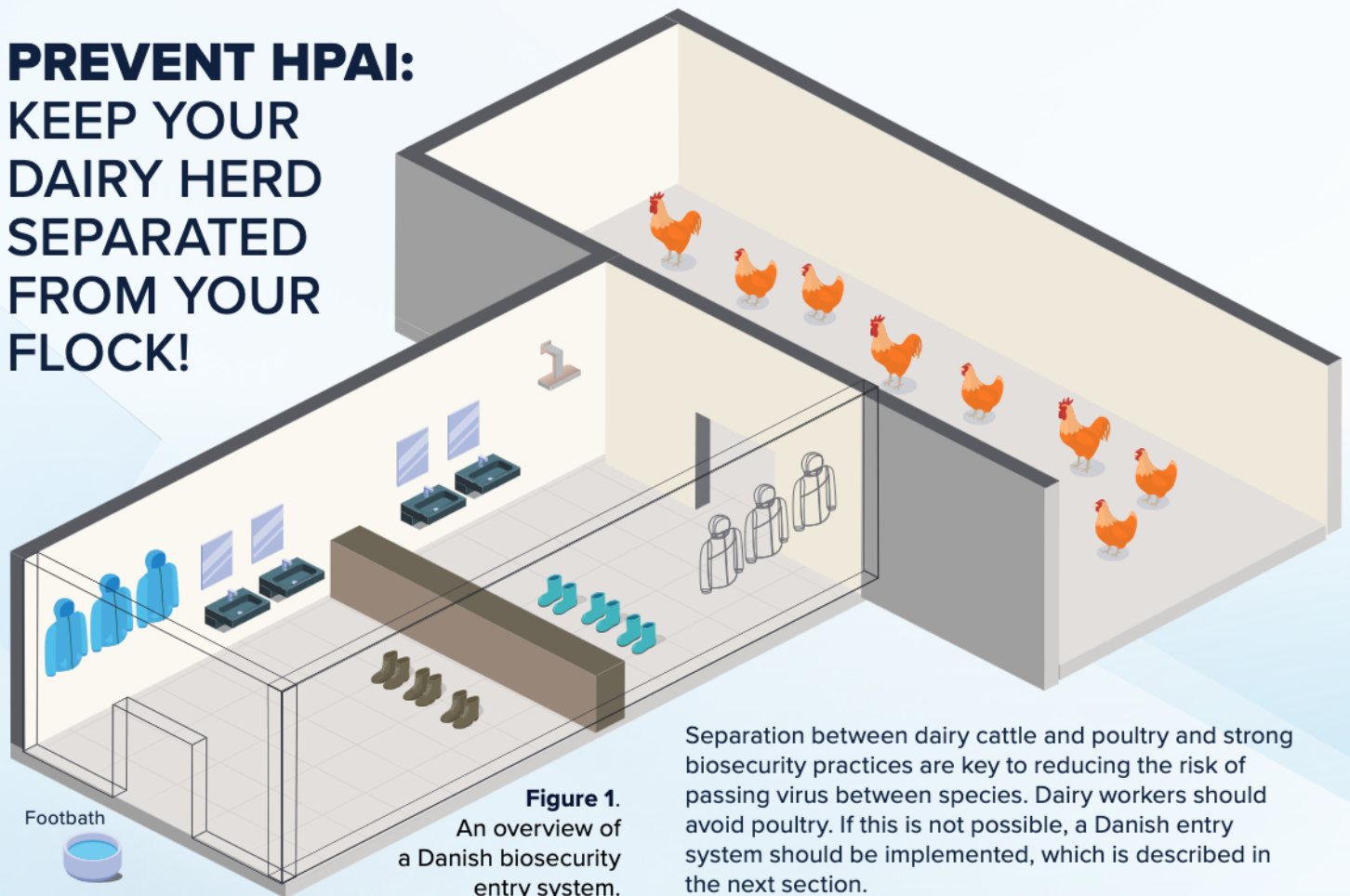


Figure 1.
An overview of
a Danish biosecurity
entry system.

Separation between dairy cattle and poultry and strong biosecurity practices are key to reducing the risk of passing virus between species. Dairy workers should avoid poultry. If this is not possible, a Danish entry system should be implemented, which is described in the next section.

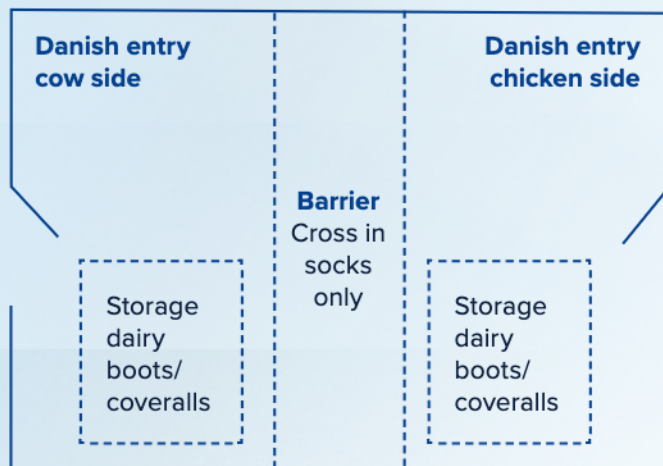


Figure 2. An example of a Danish entry design for biosecurity to minimize transferring outside feces to a poultry flock.

Adhere to these best practices:

- Clean and disinfect boots and equipment that must travel between the herd and the flock.
- Require your milkers to wear gloves. If there are hospital cows, isolate them from the rest of the herd and milk this group last.

Danish Entry System

Create a physical boundary between the herd and flock with footwear and coveralls dedicated to each side (see figures).

1. Enter from either the dairy or the poultry side of the farm, remove boots and coveralls, and store them on a cabinet assigned to that animal type. Sanitize hands.
2. Step over in clean socks to the other side of the farm. Wear a dedicated coverall and a clean pair of boots. Enter the other side of the operation.

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