



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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TO: SD Accredited Veterinarians

FROM: Beth Thompson, JD, DVM
State Veterinarian and Executive Secretary
SD Animal Industry Board

RE: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Livestock

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed in lactating dairy cows in Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Michigan, and Idaho. As of this date, there have been no reported detections of HPAI in South Dakota dairy cattle or other livestock.

It appears that HPAI causes symptoms only in lactating dairy cows, and most often in mature cows. Symptoms affect 5-20% of the group and resolve within weeks. There have been no reports of HPAI illness in other cattle industry sectors. Symptoms of HPAI in cattle include:

- Sudden drop in milk production
- Changes in milk color/consistency – milk becomes colostrum-like
- Decreased feed intake
- Changes in manure consistency
- Low-grade fever

Laboratory investigation indicates that wild birds have been the source of the HPAI virus detections in the affected herds. Further investigation is being done to determine whether the virus can be transmitted from cow to cow.

Veterinarians who discover suspect cases of HPAI in livestock should contact the SD Animal Industry Board for guidance on sample collection and diagnostic testing protocols.

Additional information and guidance is available on the USDA website at:

- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/vs-recommendations-hpai-livestock.pdf>
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nvsl-hpai-dairy-testing-recommendations.pdf>
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock>

Please contact the SD Animal Industry Board with any questions or concerns.
Thank you!