



CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - October 2024

Special Edition
HPAI Focus

9 Things You Should Be Doing Now About HPAI (If you're not doing them already...)

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Vet. Medicine, Director, CDQAP

As of this writing CDFA has [confirmed](#) a total of 133 dairy herds infected with HPAI ("Bird Flu") with several dozen additional herds pending final confirmation. To date, one turkey farm and one broiler farm have been infected. Similarly, the California Department of Public Health, CDPH, has [confirmed](#) 13 human cases, roughly one third of confirmed or presumptive cases nationally. Current [reports](#) are that almost all human cases were associated with dairy or poultry facilities, were mild in nature and responded well to treatment.

Industry and regulatory agencies have realized that the window for containing the virus to a localized region is closing or has closed, perhaps leading some producers to adapt a fatalistic attitude. There are at least four good reasons why producers should continue making biosecurity efforts:

- 1) In the other 13 affected states, not every dairy was affected, yours could be one of those in California that isn't.
- 2) The longer infection is delayed, the further we get into cooler weather, which reduces disease severity and forced culling.
- 3) There may be additional support funding for lost milk and cows available in the future which is not available now.
- 4) The longer infection is delayed, the greater the chance a vaccine for cattle will be available if your herd does become infected.

There are a number of comprehensive guidance documents about setting up biosecurity programs including those from [CDFA](#) and [USDA](#). Based on studies and observations over the last 6 months however, there are at least 9 things producers should absolutely be doing now... **See the Checklist on Page 3**

FDA Warns Veterinarians Against Aspirin Use in Dairy Cattle

New guidance prohibits aspirin use in food animals, alternatives should be used with care.

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Vet. Medicine,

Last week, the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) published a [letter](#) to veterinarians warning them that there are no aspirin products approved for use in cattle and therefore such use in dairy cows (or any other food animal species) is prohibited.



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Oct 24 - CDQAP / CMAB Webinar "Coping with HPAI"

Hear from Producers & USDA-FSA on Financial Support

Join CMAB and CDQAP at 4 pm this Thursday, October 24 for a panel discussion on how producers are Coping with HPAI in California. Dr. Natalie Ward from CDFA will provide a brief disease status update. Christopher Rosedale, director of Tulare County USDA-Farm Service Agency, will discuss new expansion of assistance availability. Finally, we will be joined by two California dairy farmers whose herds have been affected by HPAI, discussing their personal experiences with the disease and quarantine. An [flyer](#) is available and attendance is free to industry participants, but [registration](#) is required.

NorCal - HPAI Workshops This Week

UC Cooperative Extension, in partnership with CDFA and the UC School of Veterinary Medicine, is offering three in-person workshops, "Preparing for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Northern California Dairies." An [agenda](#) is available and attendance is free. Because lunch will be served, please [register here](#). Questions can be directed to Betsy Karle 530-865-1156 or bmkarle@ucanr.edu.

- Herald (Galt)- Friday, October 25: Noon to 3:00
- Orland- Monday, October 28: Noon to 3:00
- Petaluma- Tuesday, October 29: 11:00 to 2:00

Oct 29 - Train-the-Trainer Workforce HPAI Protection Workshop in Tulare

At noon on Tuesday, October 29, Western United Dairies ([WUD](#)) is partnering with the California Department of Public Health ([CDPH](#)) deliver a bilingual, one-hour training for herdsman and farm managers.



Topics will include recognizing HPAI symptoms in cattle and humans, PPE requirements and available resources for workers and employees. The seminar will be held at the International Agri-Center in Tulare, a [flyer](#) is available. The workshop is available to all dairies. WUD membership is not required. Because lunch will be provided, please RSVP to rashell@wudairies.com.

Dealing with Trespass & Drones During HPAI

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, Director, CDQAP

Tragically, some dairy and poultry farmers suffering through HPAI have also had to deal with news crews, drones and activists. After having his name and address published by an activist, one producer reports being visited by no fewer than four media outlets on the same day. Refused entry, one of the reporters entered through a back gate and accosted the producer in his office. A different Los Angeles newspaper recently contracted with a commercial drone operator to record images of dead cattle. Activists have posted recordings of their [nighttime trespass](#) onto farms in infected areas.

This understandably has producers asking “What are my rights in all of this?”

Regarding Trespass - CDQAP has previously provided [guidance](#) on trespass which is still relevant. Appropriate signage allows the county District Attorney to elevate the [charge](#) from Infraction Trespass, punishable by up to a \$75 fine for first offense, to [Misdemeanor Trespass](#), punishable by up to \$1,000 and/or 6 months in a county jail. Producers should prominently display biosecurity warning [signage](#) at the main gate and then additional “[No Trespass](#)” signs at least every one third mile along the property perimeter and at all key entry points.

At the first indication of trespass producers should contact their local police or sheriff’s department, explaining that they are concerned for the safety of their employees and animals. A cell phone recording the trespasser being asked to leave can be useful for prosecution, but threatening or assaulting a trespasser can potentially result in frustrating and expensive legal entanglements. Finally, there are no California laws which allow a person to enter a farm and “rescue” livestock or poultry. Activists believing otherwise have been arrested and [convicted](#) in California courts.

Regarding Drones – In March of this year, the FDA implemented long-awaited regulations for commercial and recreational drone operators. CDQAP will be providing updated information in the near future but there are several important new requirements. Responding sheriff’s deputies can require identification as well as the registration number for the drone. Both commercial and recreational operators are now required to have “pilots licenses” and their equipment must broadcast an electronic ID. Operators suspected of not complying with these regulations can be referred to the FFA office in Sacramento for investigation. Finally, the Central California Intelligence “fusion” Center, [CCIC](#), a multiagency law enforcement collaboration, has produced this excellent [flyer](#) on Responding to Suspicious Drone Activity.



FDA Warns Veterinarians Against Aspirin Use in Dairy Cattle *continued*

Also on Monday, the American Association for Bovine Practitioners ([AABP](#)) published a [podcast](#), which further explained this change in regulatory priorities.

Since at least the 1960s numerous brands of aspirin-containing oral products have been marketed for cattle in the U.S. including bolus, powder and liquid formulations. None of these products however have completed the rigorous FDA animal drug approval process. Until CVM's letter dated October 11th, aspirin was a member of a very short list of unapproved animal drugs, including lidocaine, epinephrine and intravenous calcium solutions, for which FDA used "regulatory discretion" allowing continued marketing because they were of "low regulatory concern".

Increasing use of aspirin in cattle during the current HPAI outbreak, the availability of other anti-inflammatory drugs labeled for cattle and media inquiries about the potential impacts to food safety prompted the FDA to determine that aspirin in dairy cattle was no longer of low regulatory concern and publish the letter.

As an alternative to aspirin there are a number of anti-inflammatory products that have FDA label approvals for some diseases in lactating dairy cows, although importantly not HPAI. These includes at least [six](#) intravenous flunixin-containing products, all having the same 36-hour milk and 4-day slaughter withdrawal periods. There is also a single pour-on flunixin [product](#) with 48-hour milk withdrawal and 8-day slaughter withdrawal periods when used according to the label. Importantly the withdrawal times for this pour-on product are only valid for a single treatment. Extra-label usage for this product, which include using additional treatments, would require the prescribing veterinarian to provide the appropriate indications for extra-label usage and the appropriate extended withdrawal times.

It is essential that hospital pen employees using flunixin products be properly trained in administration. Injection of flunixin outside the vein can result in damaged jugular veins and extended withdrawal times. IM or SQ injections can result in large, painful injection sites with tissue damage and extended meat and milk withdrawal times. Finally, veterinary literature and product labels generally caution against the use of flunixin in dehydrated animals to avoid GI and kidney damage. Your veterinarian might direct that cows be completely rehydrated before flunixin administration.

As with all prescription medications, producers considering flunixin use in cows should consult with their herd veterinarian. This is particularly true for flunixin products which are not labeled for use in cows infected with HPAI.

9 Things You Should Be Doing Now About HPAI (If you not doing them already...)

- Stop bringing untested lactating cows into the herd.** Infected cows can be asymptomatic 2 to 3 weeks before exhibiting symptoms. Ideally, new additions should be segregated for 30 days as well.
- Segregate returning youngstock for 30 days.** While the level of risk returning heifers play in disease spread is unknown, we do know apparently normal youngstock can carry the virus. To be safe returning heifers should be segregated from resident cattle for 30 days.
- Provide farm-specific boots and coveralls.** Dedicated outer-wear that remains on the dairy reduces risk of bringing the virus onto the dairy or home to their families.
- Avoid sharing employees with workers from other herds or flocks.** In studies in other states, employee cohabitation was a risk factor for spreading the virus between dairies and flocks.
- Stop all non-essential visitors.** Work with essential visitors (vets, hoof trimmers, AI or equipment technicians) to ensure they only bring in sanitized equipment or vehicles. See this [article](#) about dairy visitors.
- Keep rendering trucks off the dairy.** Move rendering pick-ups to a peripheral part of the facility so dead haulers don't have to drive through the dairy. CDFA released [guidance](#) on dead stock pick-up this week.
- Set up an HPAI protocol.** Even if you're not using it now, setting up a HPAI treatment protocol (in DairyComp, DelPro, PCDART etc.) in advance will allow you easy documentation of which cows were affected, greatly assisting later application to USDA-FSA for assistance for lost milk.
- Prepare equipment for drenching.** Construct or order equipment necessary to rehydrate large number of cows efficiently. Some commercial companies will manufacture "drench carts" [Morris Levin](#) and [Drench-Mate](#). A variety of commercial drench powders ([TechMix](#), [MB Restore](#), [Drench-Mate](#)) or homemade electrolyte [recipes](#) are being used effectively.
- Stock up on PPE for employees.** Free Personal Protective Equipment is available directly from the [state](#), but it's unknown how long supplies will last so, so act now. Dairy trade organizations are also assisting with [free distribution](#) of PPE.