

WVS MILK QUALITY

Waupun Veterinary Services, LLC - Your Progressive Dairy Partner since 1958

Update on Bovine H5N1 Influenza and Biosecurity Guidance

Summary of Findings and Recommendations by Keith Poulsen (WVDL) Presented at Regional Meeting of the National Mastitis Council in Green Bay

Recent developments in managing Highly Pathogenic Influenza A (H5N1) in dairy herds emphasize the critical role of biosecurity and proactive surveillance. While two strains have emerged since 2024 — B3.13 and D1.1 — Wisconsin's single affected farm has been confirmed as the D1.1 strain, linked to migratory waterfowl spillover. Fortunately, there are currently no sick cows or people at the affected Wisconsin dairy, and the state maintains a robust surveillance system under the National Milk Testing Strategy.

Essential Public and Farm Safety Facts

- **Food Safety is Guaranteed:** Pasteurization remains 100% effective against the virus, meaning there is zero risk to the commercial milk supply or the ability to ship milk safely.
- **Low Risk from Non-Lactating Animals:** The spread of the virus between farms is heavily driven by lactating cows, while non-lactating animals pose a negligible risk.
- **Early Detection Capability:** Outbreak data demonstrates that regular surveillance can detect the virus via PCR 14–16 days before any clinical signs manifest in the herd.

Top 3 Biosecurity Actions for Dairy Farms

- **Mandatory Testing:** Test all lactating cows entering the farm using individual milk samples, which is paramount for cattle moving interstate from affected regions (such as California, Idaho, Nebraska, Texas, and Arizona).
- **Line of Separation (LOS):** Establish a clear LOS around the farm, routing all visitor traffic through a single-entry point and keeping unnecessary deliveries at a designated external location.
- **Strict Sanitation Protocols:** Require clean, farm-dedicated clothing and disinfectable footwear for all visitors. Veterinarians must wear clean coveralls and thoroughly disinfect boots upon arrival and departure.

To help producers implement these protective standards, financial assistance is available. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides funds dedicated to supporting biosecurity planning, as well as the acquisition of pasteurizers and inline samplers for direct-ship farms.

Gamifying Stockmanship: How “Mooving Cows,” Benefits Herd Welfare and Public Trust

Effective cow handling is no longer just about daily chore management — it is a core pillar of farm safety, high production, and brand protection. Recent data emphasizes that inappropriate handling methods, such as raised voices or rushing, trigger severe cow panic. This stress directly reduces milk yields, risks worker injury, and damages public trust.

To combat this, the National FARM Animal Care program mandates annual stockmanship continuing education (CE) for all direct cattle handlers. While videos and readings offer flexible training, they lack active, hands-on skill practice.

Continued on the back page.

Continued from front page.

The Solution: A Flight Simulator for Cow Handling

To bridge this gap, researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison developed **Mooving Cows™**. This free mobile application functions like a flight simulator for dairy workers.

Active Learning: Players virtually move cows through freestall pens and milking parlors.

Bilingual Tutorials: Full voiceover narration is available in English and Spanish.

Real Challenges: Features real-world farm scenarios like peer pressure and lame cows.

Proven Success: Farm testing showed a significant increase in staff knowledge and confidence.

FARM Certified: Completing all 8 levels rewards players with an official CE certificate.

Winning Over the Public

Investing in proper training also pays dividends with consumers. A survey of over 800 dairy consumers revealed that proactive stockmanship training significantly elevates public perception. Regardless of whether a farm trains staff to improve welfare or boost its public image, consumers view the commitment positively and express higher intent to purchase those dairy products.

Download the App Today

The game is completely free, contains zero advertisements, and takes under 30 minutes to complete. Search for **Mooving Cows™** in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to download it for your team.



WVS Spanish Speaking Vets Offer Milk Quality Training in August

Drs. Molly Rogus and Dr. Emma Schaffel will offer a course on August 27 at 3:00 pm at Nehls Brothers on milk quality for Hispanic speaking employees. Both Dr. Molly and Dr. Emma are fluent in Spanish. The topics they will discuss include why the routine is the routine, proper cow movement into and away from the parlor, mastitis identification, and correct dry off procedures.

The class will be approximately two hours and will include classroom and hands-on skill training to guarantee competency immediately following class. Even if routines differ between farms, the concepts of each step are universal and will be emphasized in class in detail. Employees will receive certificates of veterinary training to display to milk plant representatives and F.A.R.M. evaluators.

This is a great opportunity to help train your Hispanic milkers. The cost is \$200 per person or \$150 per person if 3 or more people are attending from a farm. Please contact the clinic to reserve your spot for your milkers.



Dr. Emma Schaffel



Dr. Molly Rogus