

H5N1 Prevention Strategies: A Guide for Agricultural Producers



College of Agricultural,
Consumer &
Environmental Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois Extension
farmdoc

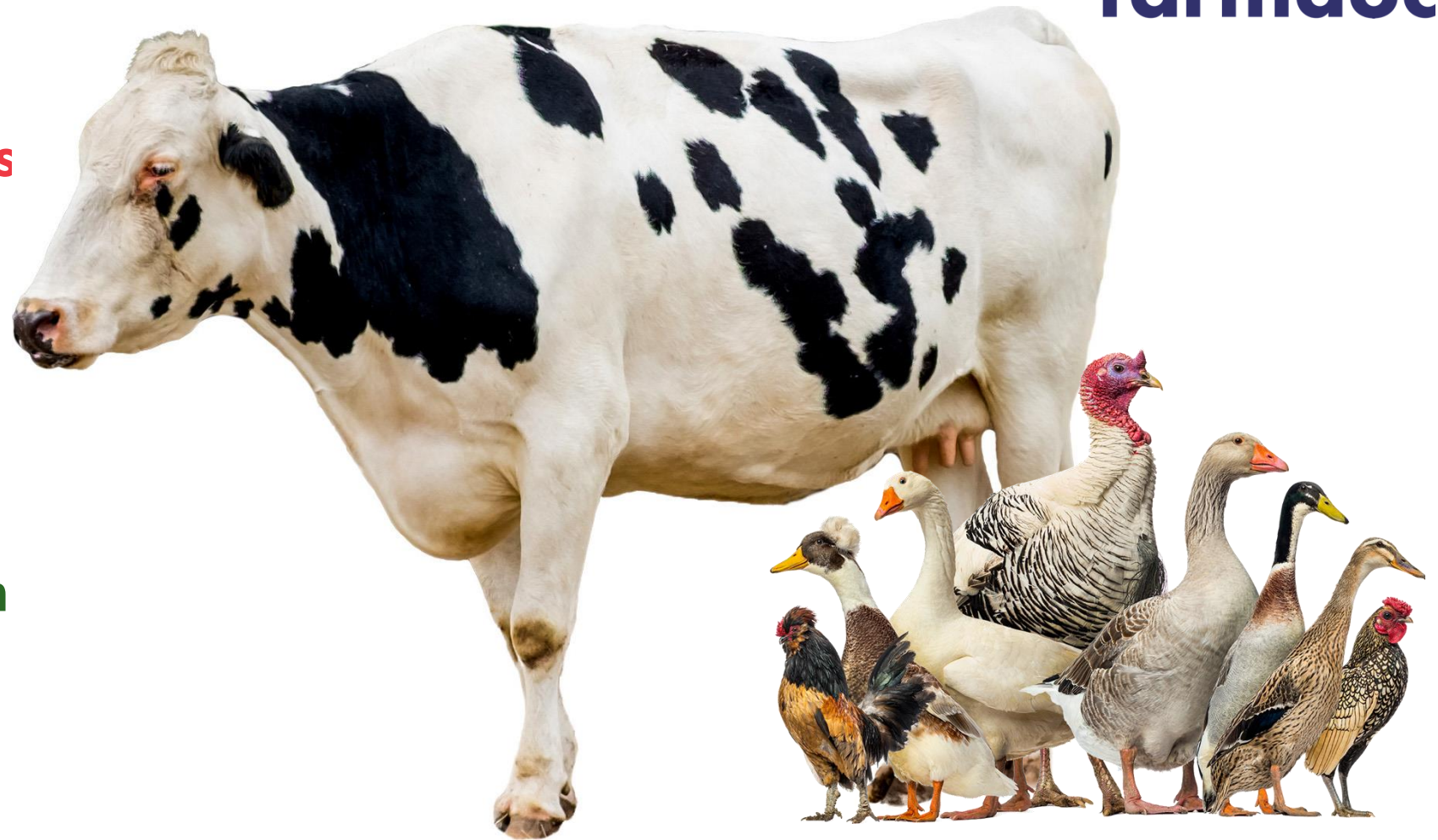
Tasha Bunting

**Director of Commodity
Programs & Farm Systems**



Mark Ernst, DVM

Illinois State Veterinarian





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GREAT LAKES CENTER FOR
FARMWORKER
HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Josie M Rudolphi, PhD

Center Deputy Director for
Great Lakes Center for Farmworker Health and Wellbeing

H5N1 - Resources and Support



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Contact Josie Rudolphi (josier@illinois.edu) with requests for training and information to protect yourself or workers.



FREE MENTAL HEALTH CARE

FREE mental health sessions for farmers.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



AG CONCERN HOTLINE

1-800-447-1985

- Agricultural-specific legal, financial, and stress support.
- Free, 24/7 access to trained staff.
- Confidential.



988 LIFELINE CHAT & TEXT

Call or Text 988

- Suicide, mental health and/or substance use support.
- Free, 24/7 access to trained staff.
- Confidential.



ONLINE RESOURCES

farmstress.org

170+ ag-specific resources.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



HPAI Prevention Strategies for Producers



Illinois
Department of
Agriculture

Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare

Mark Ernst, DVM
Illinois State Veterinarian

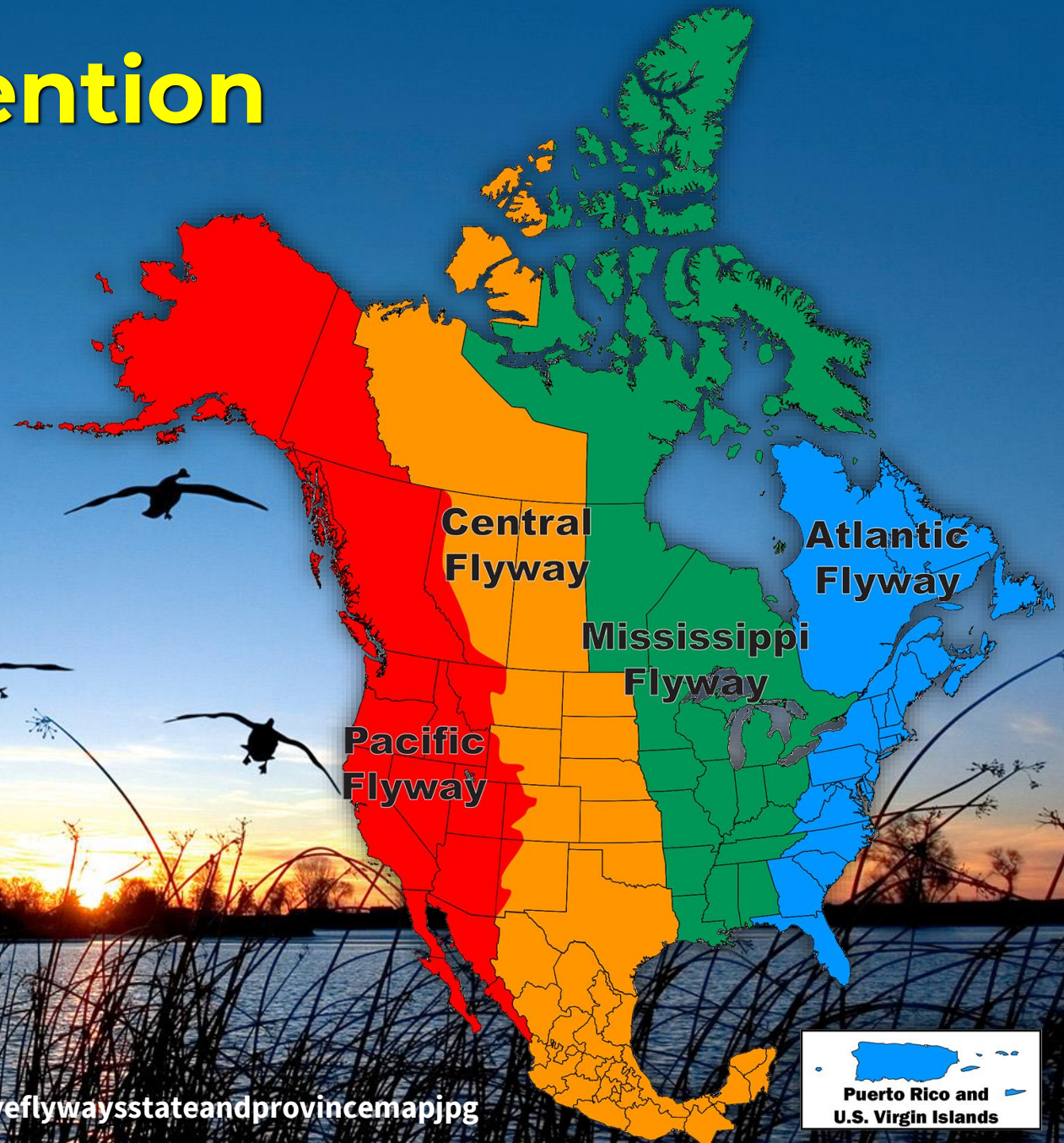
Challenges to Prevention

- **Wildlife**
 - Waterfowl carrier state
- **Environment**
 - Virus survival
- **Fomite Transfer**
 - Footwear, clothing, equipment
- **Flock Additions**



Challenges to Prevention Wildlife

Waterfowl carrier state



USFWS, Public Domain,
<https://www.fws.gov/media/migratorybirdprogramadministrativeflywaysstateandprovincemapjpg>

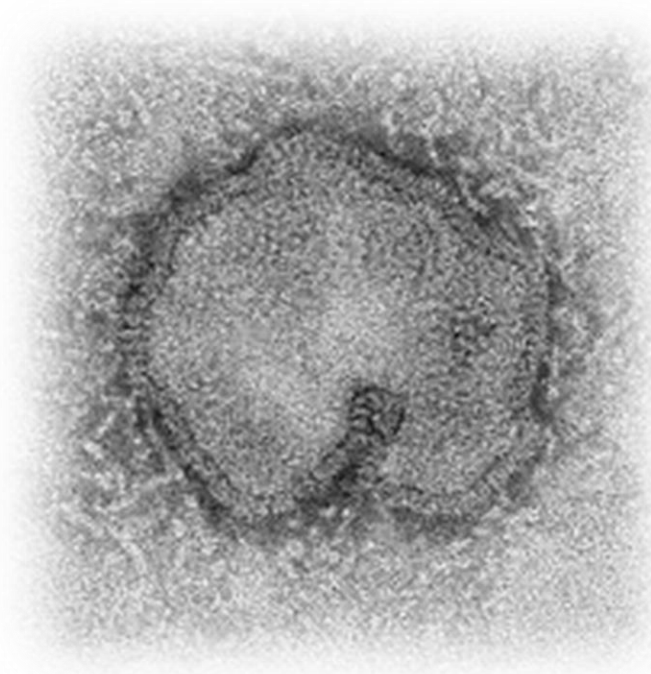
Puerto Rico and
U.S. Virgin Islands

Challenges to Prevention

Environment

Virus survival

- 8 weeks at 39°F in wet or dry droppings
- 30 days in feathers
- 1-14 days in soil
- 26 hours on plastic
- 4.5 hours on skin
- 24-48 hours on metal
- 2 weeks on wood



Challenges to Prevention

Fomite Transfer

Footwear, clothing, equipment



Challenges to Prevention

Flock Additions



Prevention Solutions Wildlife

- Seal up entry points in buildings
- Pick up feed spills
- Practice rodent control
- Use waterfowl hazing strategies
 - Auditory devices
 - Visual scaring devices
 - Grid wiring over desired exclusion area



Prevention Solutions

Environment and Fomite Transfer

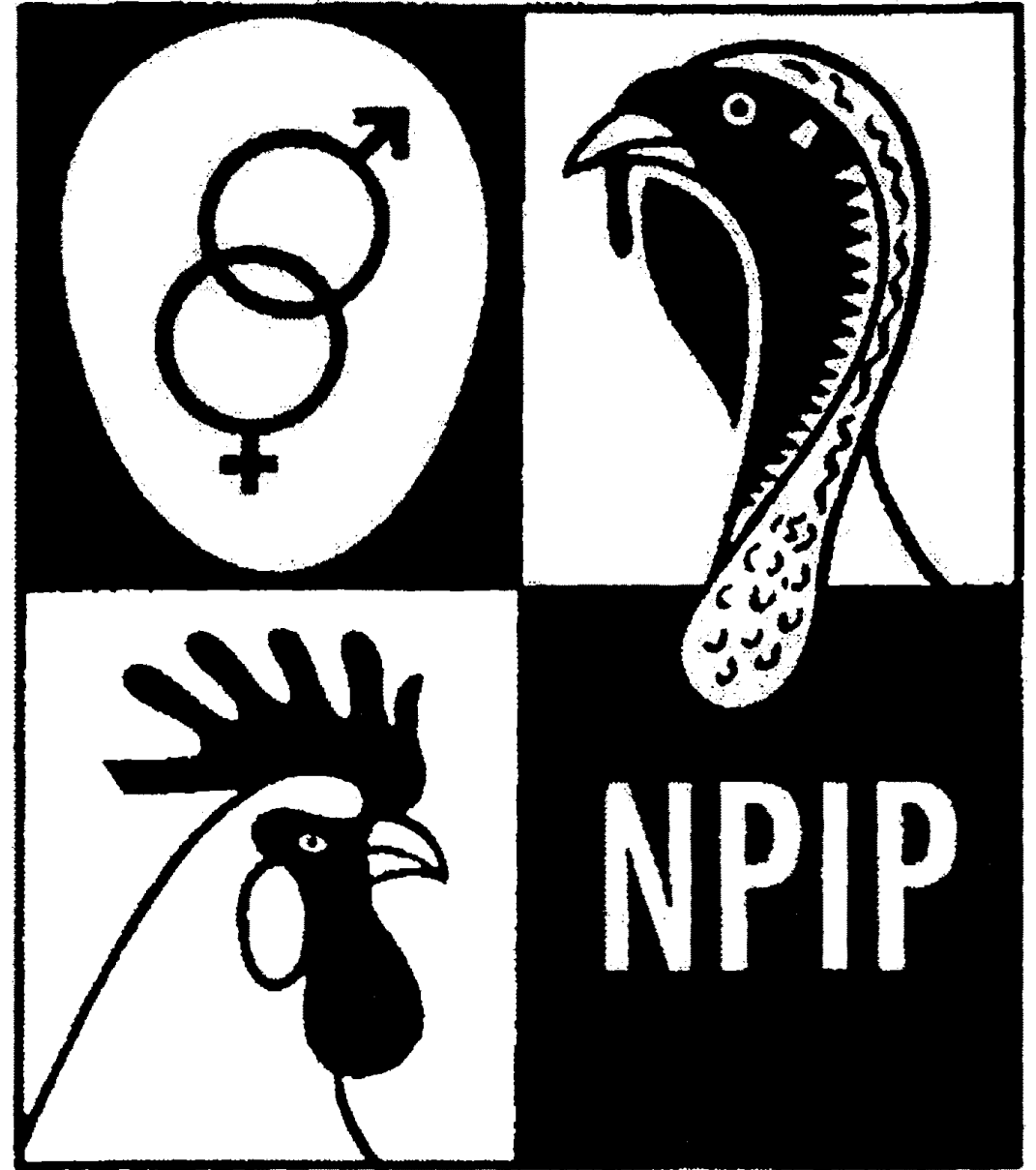
- Sanitation
- Restrict visitors
- Restrict vehicle traffic
 - Signage / barriers
 - Disinfection
- Dedicated equipment
- Dedicated clothing and footwear



Prevention Solutions

Flock Additions

- Single source
- All-in / All-out
- Source from a monitored flock
- Source from a **National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)** member flock



Resources

USDA APHIS Defend the Flock Resource Center

www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock/resources

The Center for Food Security and Public Health: CFSPH

<https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/diseaseinfo/disease/?disease=avian-influenza>

Secure Poultry Supply

<https://securepoultrysupply.umn.edu>

National Poultry Improvement Plan

<https://www.poultryimprovement.org>





H5N1 Prevention Strategies

A Guide for Agricultural Producers

Tasha Bunting

Illinois Farm Bureau Director of
Commodity Programs & Food Systems



Dairy in Illinois



- 360 Grade A Dairy Farms
- 79,000 Milk Cows
- 1.7 Billion Pounds
- 1,200 Dairy Farm Workers
- Milk Sales Ranks 6th in Illinois Farm Products

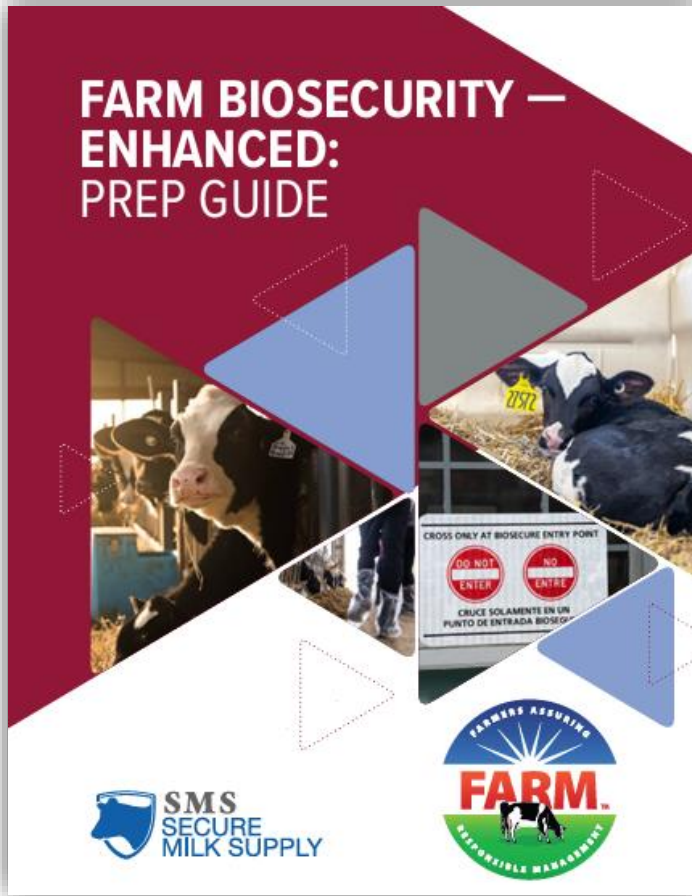


Protecting the Herd

- Depopulate infected poultry
- Quarantine infected cows
- Practice biosecurity
- Support vaccine development



Protecting the Herd



SMS ENHANCED BIOSECURITY PREMISES MAP CHECKLIST

Be sure the premises map is labeled (either by hand or electronically) with the following & check that each has been included:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Premises Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated parking area | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Loading/Unloading Area(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Premises Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Milk truck route to milk house | <input type="checkbox"/> Label animal housing areas, feed areas, manure storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Premises Identification Number (PIN) | <input type="checkbox"/> Milk house | <input type="checkbox"/> Legend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public road | <input type="checkbox"/> Carcass disposal/pickup location | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line of Separation (LOS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carcass removal pathways | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOS Access Point(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Deliveries (non-essential to the dairy) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle cleaning and disinfection (C&D) station(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Compass indicating North | |

National Milk Testing Strategy



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1

Begin National Plant Silo Monitoring

Begin nationwide testing of milk silos at dairy processing facilities. This national sample will allow USDA to identify where the disease is present, monitor trends, and help States identify potentially affected herds.

2

Determine State Status

Building on the results of silo monitoring, USDA will work with States to stand up bulk tank sampling programs. This will enable us to identify herds in the State that are affected with H5N1.

3

Detect and Respond to the Virus in Affected States

For States with H5N1 detections, we will work quickly to identify specific cases and implement rapid response measures. This includes enhanced biosecurity using USDA's existing incentives programs, movement controls, and contact tracing.

4

Demonstrate H5 Absence in Unaffected States

Continue regular sampling of farms' bulk tanks. Bulk tank sampling frequency will progressively decline as the State demonstrates continual silo negativity.

If a State becomes affected, it will return to stage 3.

5

Demonstrate H5 Freedom in U.S. Dairy Cattle

After all States move through stage 4, we will work with the States to begin periodic sampling and testing to illustrate long-term absence from the national herd.

Protecting the Herd



- New Strategy
- Challenges
- Farmer Support



Protecting the Human



CDC, state and local public health officials, and animal health partners indicate two primary ways that workers in the United States have been infected with H5N1 virus: via **exposure to infected poultry** during culling activities, and through **exposure to infected dairy cows**, including while caring for sick cows, or when working in a milking parlor, the area on the farm where cows are milked.

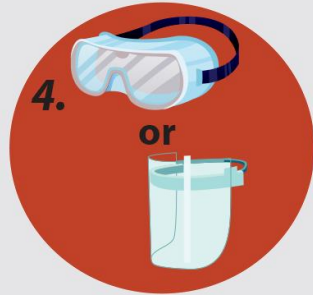
Protecting the Human

- Decreasing human exposure
- Enhancing personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance
- Identifying exposed workers and providing appropriate testing
- Offering testing to asymptomatic workers with a high-risk exposure
- Increasing outreach and education



Protect Yourself From H5N1 When Working With Farm Animals

H5N1 is a bird flu virus that could make you sick. Wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) when working directly or closely with sick or dead animals, animal feces, litter, raw milk, and other materials that might have the virus.



Wash hands with soap and water, then put on PPE in this order:

1. Fluid-resistant coveralls
2. Waterproof apron, if needed for job task
3. NIOSH Approved® Respirator (e.g., N95® filtering facepiece respirator or elastomeric half mask respirator)
4. Properly-fitted unvented *or* indirectly vented safety goggles or face shield
5. Head cover or hair cover
6. Gloves
7. Boots

Scan to learn how to put on and take off a respirator



While wearing PPE

- Use separate designated clean areas, one for putting on PPE and one for taking off PPE.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose after touching any contaminated material.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, vape, chew gum, dip tobacco, or use the bathroom.

Follow these steps to safely remove PPE

1. Remove the apron, if worn
2. Clean and disinfect your boots
3. Remove your boots
4. Remove coveralls
5. Remove gloves
6. Wash your hands with soap and water or, if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub
7. Remove head cover or hair cover
8. Remove goggles or faceshield and then remove respirator
9. Wash your hands again with soap and water or, if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub

After removing PPE

- Shower at the end of the work shift.
- Leave all contaminated clothing and equipment at work.
- Watch for symptoms of illness while you are working with potentially sick animals or materials. Continue watching for symptoms for 10 days after finishing working. If you get sick, tell your supervisor and talk with a doctor.

Reusable and disposable PPE

- While removing PPE, dispose of all disposable PPE appropriately and set aside reusable PPE
- Clean and disinfect reusable PPE after every use

Scan to find more PPE and worker safety information



Protecting the Human

- Illinois Farm Bureau & Illinois Department project
- One-time distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- PPE is being offered free upon request

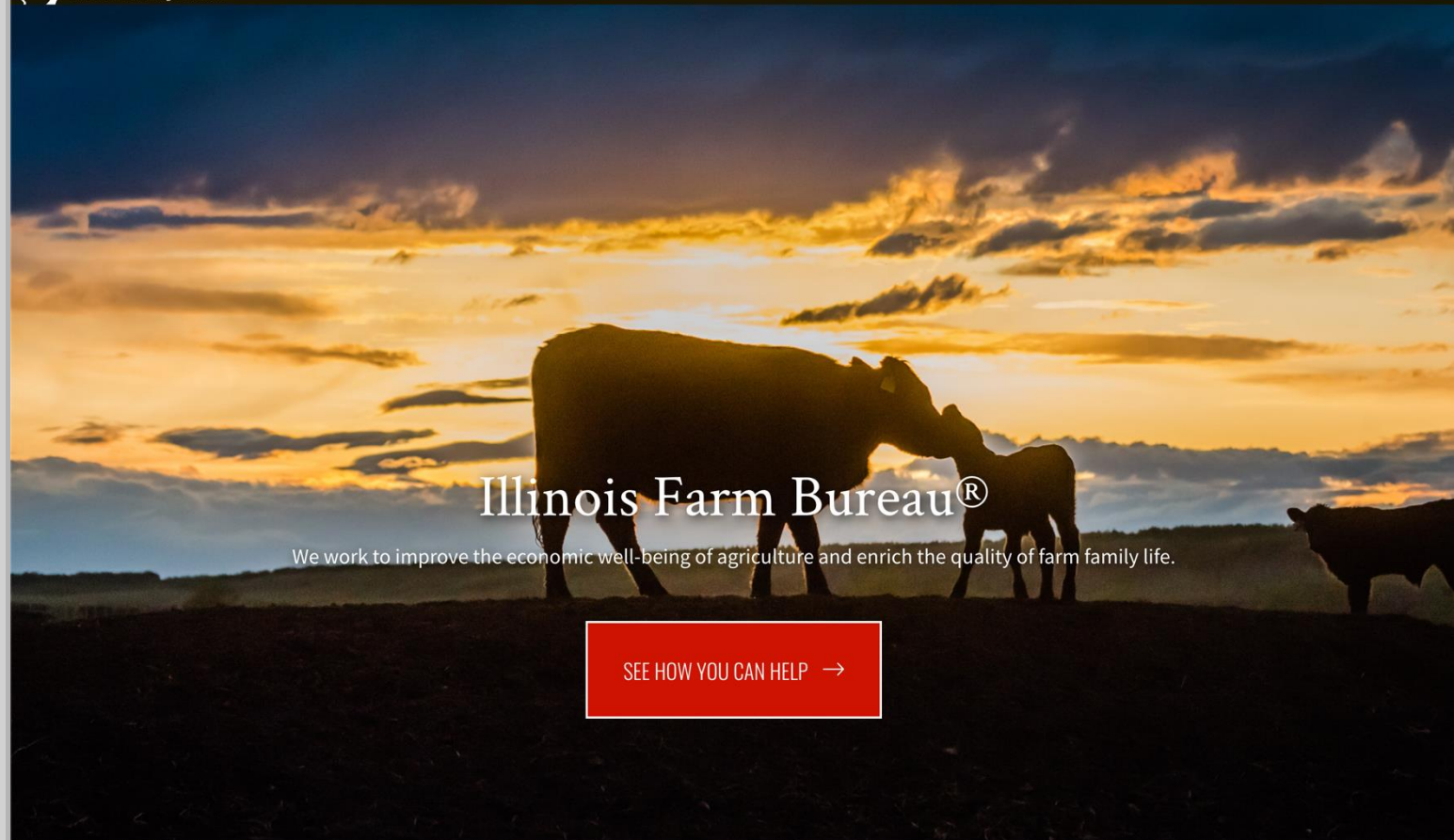


Thank you!

Tasha Bunting
Illinois Farm Bureau
Director of Commodity
Programs & Farm
Systems

Email: tbunting@ifb.org

Phone: 1 (309) 557-2993



Illinois Farm Bureau®

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WELL BEING



PROTECTING OUR
ENVIRONMENT



DEVELOPING
IFB POLICY



BUILDING
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MENU

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Crop Risk Management Decisions for 2025

In response to the continuing challenges of lower commodity prices and elevated production costs, this essential two-part webinar series offers Illinois grain producers vital insights for 2025 risk management decisions. These timely sessions are designed to help producers make informed choices before the April 15, 2025, deadline.

March 3, 2025 | 11:00 AM - Noon CT

Navigating 2025 Crop Insurance Choices

March 28, 2025 | 11:00 AM – Noon

Deadline Decisions:

Making the Right ARC/PLC Choice for 2025



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