



Recommendations for Waste Milk Disposal

January 7, 2025

Background

The CFIA's "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Dairy Cattle Response Plan" (the dERP) provides guidelines for disposal of HPAI infected milk. Waste milk must not enter the bulk tank and must be quarantined (CFIA/ACIA 4206) until an appropriate disposal method is applied (described below).

The HPAI virus can be highly concentrated in raw milk from infected cows, and therefore, extra care needs to be taken when handling and disposing of this milk to prevent further spread of the virus. Farm workers tasked with raw milk disposal should wear PPE such as safety goggles, medical masks, gloves, and rubber boots. Clothing should be changed after disposing of the milk.

If your herd has tested positive, **do not** feed raw milk to calves or other animals (ie. barn cats or dogs) to prevent exposure.

Approved Methods of Disposal

- 1) Heat treatment with the following parameters:
 - a. 72 degrees Celsius for 30 seconds (double the time required for high temp, short time pasteurization)
 - b. 63 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes
 - c. Another time/temp combination approved by the CFIA
- 2) Removal of waste milk under a License to Transport (CFIA/ACIA 4206LTT) to an off-site location for viral deactivation:
 - a. Thermophilic biodigester
 - b. Wastewater treatment plant
- 3) Solidification and burial
- 4) Subsurface injection when combined with slurry
- 5) Disposal in manure pit/slurry tank with an appropriate holding period on a case-by-case basis

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
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Manure pit/slurry disposal requirements

A manure pit/slurry tank containing contaminated milk will be subject to a holding period and must:

- A) Remain under movement control
- B) Have biocontainment measures in place to prevent possible exposure of susceptible species, including wildlife

The manure pit/slurry tank will be placed under quarantine at the time the herd is classified as affected:

- A) The quarantine period will last a minimum of 60 days when the average daily temperature is at or above 4 degrees Celsius but may be extended to account for considerations such as capacity and type of manure storage, volume of waste milk, time of year, location of affected premises, and final disposal method.
- B) The 60-day countdown begins on the day following the last addition of untreated waste milk to the manure pit during the time the herd is considered an affected herd

Pasteurization Guidelines

Temperature and time should be carefully monitored during the pasteurization process. Standard written protocols should be followed for using and maintaining waste milk pasteurizers.

Pasteurization times and temperatures:

- (A) High Temperature – Short Time (HTST) - 161°F / 72°C for 30 seconds
- (B) Batch Pasteurization – 145°F / 63°C for 30 minutes

Milk should be stirred continuously during the heating process to ensure uniform heating.

Equipment Maintenance

- Regularly inspect and maintain pasteurization equipment to ensure it is functioning correctly.
- Calibrate thermometers and other measuring devices frequently to maintain accuracy.

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- Avoid any cross-contamination by keeping raw milk separate from pasteurized milk at all stages.

Cleaning and sanitizing pasteurizers

With poor cleaning, fat, protein, and inorganic films (minerals) can build up in these systems, interfering with temperature transfer to the milk and serving as a source to inoculate milk with bacteria. Producers should refer to the user's manual for their commercial on-farm pasteurizers for cleaning instructions that best fit their equipment. Evaluating cleaning can include visual assessment for build-up of residual films.

Safety Recommendations

Hygiene Practices

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling the raw milk.
- Avoid touching the face or other exposed skin areas.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Wear gloves, masks, and protective clothing when handling raw milk.
- Use eye protection to prevent splashes from entering the eyes.
- Ensure PPE is disposed of or disinfected properly after use.

Disinfecting areas exposed to raw waste milk

- If infected milk is splashed, wash the floor and contaminated surface with hot water (72 degrees for 15 seconds), and use an approved disinfectant for killing HPAI.

For more information or if there are any questions, please contact the Office of the Chief Veterinarian via phone 1-800-661-9903, or email chief.veterinarian@gov.bc.ca.



Additional Resources

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food Resources

[Avian influenza - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://gov.bc.ca)

AgSafe

[Avian Influenza \(AI\) Exposure Prevention | Safe Work Practice | AgSafe \(agsafebc.ca\)](#)

[Avian Influenza \(AI\) Personal Protective Equipment | AgSafe \(agsafebc.ca\)](#)

WorkSafe Resource

[Avian flu - WorkSafeBC](#)

[Avian influenza: Protecting workers during an outbreak in livestock | WorkSafeBC](#)

Biosecurity Resources – Canadian Food Inspection Agency

[Highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\) in livestock - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)

BC Center for Disease Control

Avian Influenza. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/avian-influenza>

Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety

https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/avian_influenza.html

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/laboratory-biosafety-biosecurity/pathogen-safety-data-sheets-risk-assessment/influenza-a-virus-subtypes-h5-h7-h9.html>

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