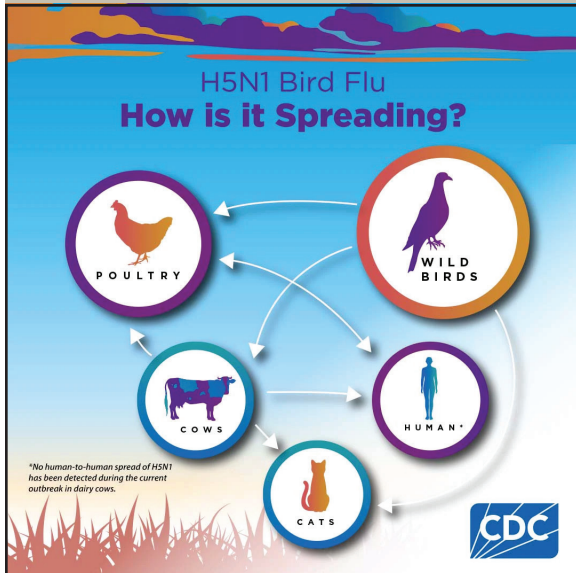


Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza- What You Should Know



Over the past few months, growing concerns have been raised surrounding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (also known as HPAI or H5N1). To aid in this discussion, NYCAMH has assembled resources to assist New York farmers understand more about this issue, the Personal Protective Equipment recommended to protect workers, and what to do if they suspect they have been infected by HPAI.

What is HPAI?

HPAI is a strain of influenza wide-spread in wild birds, which unfortunately has been infecting domesticated flocks of poultry and herds of dairy cattle. As you can see in the diagram to the left, it can be spread directly to cats, cows, and poultry, the latter two who can then spread it to humans. There are currently no known instances of human to human spread in this ongoing outbreak.

What are some ways to protect myself and my workers?

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is an effective measure against the spread of HPAI from animals to humans. Simple interventions like using gloves or NIOSH approved respirators (when appropriate) can drastically reduce your chances of contracting HPAI. Additionally, HPAI is easily transmitted through unprocessed (raw) milk. While there are currently no documented cases of HPAI in New York, avoid consuming raw milk while the risk of HPAI exists in the state.

Wild birds are spreading H5N1 across the nation; do your part to protect yourself and your workers from this outbreak. Infographic courtesy of CDC

Where can I learn more?

NYCAMH and the Northeast Center have presented links from trusted partners across the state (and the whole northeast) to help during this time. If you want to learn more, please visit nycamh.org/hpai, or scan the QR code to the right.

We're here to help!

Do you need specific guidance for your farm to safeguard against HPAI? Contact NYCAMH today to schedule an on-farm safety training, telephone consultation, or other related service. Our goal is always your safety, and we appreciate the opportunity to serve you!



NYCAMH's HPAI Resource Page

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FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



NYCAMH Grateful for Critical Budget Increase

Thanks to the continued leadership, support and coordinated efforts of both Governor Hochul and our Legislative leaders, including Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Chair Hinchey, Chair Rivera, Chair Ramos, Speaker Heastie, Chair Lupardo, Chair Paulin and Chair Bronson, NYCAMH will receive \$2.35 million in 2024 funding to ensure that farmers, farmworkers and their families remain safe, healthy and productive in the years ahead. We would like to extend our organization's considerable thanks to all who have made this year's budget funding, including an important funding increase, a reality.

For more than 35 years, we have had the distinct pleasure to work with farmers and their families to make agriculture safer and healthier. However, given labor shortages, fluctuations in commodity pricing and rising production costs, this has becoming increasingly more challenging for our farmers. These growing challenges mean that while we all agree that it is essential to have properly maintained equipment and ready access to safety devices and to approach every task safely, at the end of the day the hard reality is that our framers cannot always afford proper equipment maintenance or critical safety devices. Instead, they are doing the best they can just to get the job done and pay their bills. As one farm wife told us recently, "Safety sometimes feels like a luxury we cannot afford. When it comes to feeding people in this country, it is often the farmer who pays, literally with blood, sweat and tears."

Thanks to the efforts of many reading this article, safety should no longer be a luxury for NY farmers. With the 2024 investments made by the state we will be better able to meet our mission of serving the health and safety needs of farmers and farmworkers by providing on-farm training, occupational healthcare, case management, and funding for safety improvements and technical assistance.

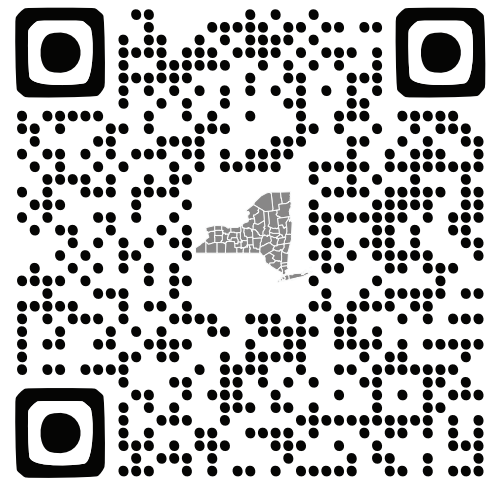


NYCAMH's funding increase will extend the scope and number of services we can offer NY farmers, like a recent on-farm training presented by Safety Educators Jim Carrabba and Anna Meyerhoff, shown above.

Veterans in Agriculture Survey

NYCAMH and the Cornell Small Farms Program project for veterans in agriculture, Farm Ops, are working together to identify assistive needs for New York farmer veterans with impairments that affect their daily work.

NYCAMH and Farm Ops are asking all New York veterans in agriculture to complete a short survey. The information gathered through this survey will help determine needs across the state and will also help make a case for more funding resources to support veterans in agriculture. Responses are confidential and anonymous. You can opt-in to get additional information about support programs at the end of the survey, but your name is not connected to your survey answers.



Scan the QR Code above to take part in this survey.

To find the link to the survey, scan the QR code to the right, or go to the Cornell Small Farms Program Farm Ops Survey page at smallfarms.cornell.edu/2024/05/survey-for-new-york-farmer-veterans/. Responses are accepted through July 1.

NYCAMH Happenings

We are proud to announce new and returning staff; please help us welcome:

Conor Hammersley - Research Investigator II

Dr. Hammersley returns from his homeland of Ireland as a full-time staff member after joining us as a Fulbright Scholar in 2022-24. He will continue his work in mental health as it relates to farmers, as well as many other research opportunities with the Northeast Center.



New NYCAMH Staff Members (L-R): Conor, Brittany, and Destiny

Brittany Houghton-Depietro - HealthWorks Operations Coordinator

Brittany is the new operations coordinator for HealthWorks and joins us from the Laboratory at Bassett Medical Center. Brittany brings a wealth of knowledge, particularly with her volunteer Fire Fighter experience.

Destiny Trombley - Research Coordinator

Destiny will be working with several projects, including the ongoing Vermont Tick Study, Bluestone Cutting Project, forestry initiatives, and more. She just completed her Master of Science in Psychological Science from SUNY New Paltz, and has years of on-farm experience.

We are glad to have each of you on the team!

Congratulations, Dahlia!

NYCAMH wishes to congratulate our own **Dahlia Sheehan-Yassin** on her graduation from SUNY Polytechnic Institute of Technology with a Master of Science in Information Design and Technology. In addition to this incredible accomplishment, Dahlia was further honored with two academic awards:

- Information Design and Technology Program Award: recognizes the graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding professionalism and service to the IDT program and who has set new standards for quality in developing, designing and producing a thesis project.
- College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Dean's Award: presented to a graduating Master's student demonstrating significant professional contributions and outstanding academic achievement.

Dahlia's course work at SUNY Poly focused on social media, branding, and organizational change. As the Outreach Coordinator for the John May Farm Safety Fund, she has successfully implemented new designs into aspects of the John May Farm Safety Fund application, advertising, and website. She looks forward to continuing the success of the John May Farm Safety Fund by using her skills and knowledge about information design, marketing, and the user-experience - congratulations, Dahlia!



Dahlia Sheehan-Yassin upon her May 2024 Graduation from SUNY Poly

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SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

PPE for HPAI

With the current situation surrounding HPAI, it is important that everyone working around the farm has proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while working. NYCAMH offers dozens of options for PPE to keep you safe.



Infographic courtesy of CDC

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



NYCAMH's PPE Program Webpage

Note- items with green background are available through NYCAMH's PPE Program.
Scan the QR code or visit nycamh.org/programs-and-services/personal-protective-equipment.php

Do you have a safety topic that you want to see more of? Let us know at **info@nycamh.org** or call us at **(800)343-7527**.