Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 has been detected in cattle across the country.

For the first time ever, H5N1 has spread from cattle to a human.

To prevent any illnesses amongst cattle, humans, or other animals, review and follow the guidance below:

1. Look for sick animals

Monitor cattle closely for clinical signs of H5N1 infection:
- Decreased milk production
- Reduced appetite
- Thickened, discolored milk
- Low energy
- Fever
- Dehydration

Isolate ill animals with clinical signs in a dedicated hospital or sick pen.
If possible, this area should not share confined air space, panels/fence lines, feeding or watering space with other animals.

Minimize movement of animals.
If cattle must be moved, the USDA recommends premovement testing of milk samples from lactating cows and nasal swabs for non-lactating cattle.

2. Protect yourself with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wear appropriate PPE when in direct or close physical contact with:
- Sick birds, livestock, or other animals
- Animal carcasses, feces, litter, or raw milk of potentially infected animals
- Surfaces and water that might be contaminated with animal excretions of potentially infected animals.
- Buildings where infected animals or materials were that have not yet been disinfected

PPE includes a properly fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles, disposable gloves, boots or boot covers, a NIOSH-Approved particulate respirator (e.g., N95 filtering facepiece respirator), disposable fluid-resistant coveralls, and a disposable head cover or hair cover.
3. If you think you were exposed to H5N1 (even if you wore recommended PPE):
Self-monitor for the following symptoms of respiratory illness every day while working with sick animals:
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Eye redness
- Fever
- Runny nose
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Body pain
Stop monitoring 10 days after the last day of exposure to potentially infected animals or contaminated materials.

4. If you think you are infected with H5N1
Isolate away from others, including household members, except for seeking medical evaluation. Notify your supervisor. Seek prompt medical evaluation for possible influenza testing and antiviral treatment by your doctor.

5. Pay special attention to raw milk safety
Raw milk, raw milk cheese, and other raw dairy products should not be manufactured from cattle showing symptoms of illness or from asymptomatic cattle that have been exposed to cattle infected with H5N1.

Raw milk should not be fed to any animals. Raw milk and dairy products also should not be used for human consumption.

Take precautions when discarding milk, especially milk from infected or exposed cows, so that the discarded milk does not become a source of further spread.

Precautions could include:
- Heat-treatment or pasteurization of discarded milk prior to dumping in lagoons or application of waste solids.
- Ensuring biosecurity around lagoons (ensuring that animals and birds do not have access to lagoons).

For more information on H5N1, visit tinyurl.com/infoH5N1 or scan this QR code.