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## Comment from Anonymous

Posted by the **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** on Apr 21, 2025[Docket \(/docket/APHIS-2024-0069\)](/docket/APHIS-2024-0069) / [Document \(APHIS-2024-0069-0001\) \(/document/APHIS-2024-0069-0001\)](/document/APHIS-2024-0069-0001)  
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This policy to combat Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle is vital to the health and safety of dairy cattle, livestock, and above all, the American people. To allow the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to request information related to testing milk from dairy cattle due to HPAI is nothing short of essential to the agriculture industry, health of the nation, and economy. This legislation does not come out of left field; it directly piggybacks off of The Animal Health Protection Act of 2002. The act gives the Secretary of Agriculture the ability to maintain the wellbeing of livestock and the ability to prohibit imports/exports of animal related material in an effort to stop the spread of disease. Therefore, this policy will not bring shocking change, but instead a welcoming transition into dealing with the state of livestock. Aside from the general population that could be at risk for HPAI, no group of people will be impacted by a lack of action more than the backbone of this country: the farmers and workers in the agriculture industry; a people whose demands and sufferings have been ignored for years. The virus is shed in milk in high concentrations; anything or anyone that encounters the milk has the ability to contract it. While the risk of everyday folk contracting HPAI are low, there is a far larger chance for individuals who work with these dairy cattle. According to the NIOSH, in 2022 the deaths of workers in agriculture and agriculture adjacent industries were at a rate of 18.6 per every 100,000 workers. This statistic is telling of the exposure to chemicals, dust, loud noise, and both physical and mental stress that farmers experience day to day. Do we really want to add another cause of suffering to that list?

For anyone such as myself who has spent time working on a farm, it goes without saying that Avian Influenza is taking over the agriculture industry. After spending months changing into plastic shoes every time I entered a chicken coop, it is clear to me that change must be enacted. However, the change that must occur stems than just this policy. We must address the root of the issue- the conditions livestock live in that create a ground for outbreaks. Disease breaks out when there is not enough resources (space, for example) to support a population. I recommend anyone reading this to research farms with mass productions of livestock products, these are no conditions that should satisfy consumers. I therefore support this policy, and encourage policy makers to take a further dive into how we got into yet another mass spread of disease in livestock.

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