

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [This May Be Our Last Chance to Halt Bird Flu in Humans and We Are Blowing It](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/24/opinion/bird-flu-cow-outbreak.html>

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Tweet: H5N1 has been detected in 33 dairy herds in eight states. @zeynep reports the Texas commissioner for agriculture “strongly suspected that the outbreak dated back to at least February.”

Summary: The outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza among U.S. dairy cows, first reported on March 25, has now spread to at least 33 herds in eight states. So far there is only one confirmed human case. Rick Bright, an expert on the H5N1 virus who served on President Biden’s coronavirus advisory board, told me this is the crucial moment. “There’s a fine line between one person and 10 people with H5N1,” he said. “By the time we’ve detected 10, it’s probably too late” to contain. That’s when I told him what I’d heard from Sid Miller, the Texas commissioner for agriculture. He said he strongly suspected that the outbreak dated back to at least February. The commissioner speculated that back then, as much as 40% of the herds in the Texas Panhandle may have been infected.

Related Articles: Bird Flu Is Infecting More Mammals. What Does That Mean for Us? and Bird Flu Outbreak in US Cows: Why Scientists Are Concerned and How the Current Bird Flu Strain Evolved to be so Deadly

Primary Topic: Science

Topics: Op-Ed/Blog Post, Science

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