



June 11, 2024

Ozark Empire Fair Dairy Cattle Exhibitors:

I am writing this letter to inform and guide each dairy cattle exhibitor through the new regulations and recommendations to minimize influenza transmission at the 2024 Ozark Empire Fair.

At the end of May, the livestock department at OEF was informed about new recommendations regarding influenza transmission in dairy cattle and what exhibition officials and exhibitors should do to minimize the spread. For the 2024 Ozark Empire Fair, we are requiring certified veterinarian inspections (CVIs) on all in state and out of state livestock, including dairy cattle. Any out of state lactating dairy cattle will have to provide proof of a negative testing milk sample within a 7 day period of exhibition. A milk test is now mandatory under federal order to move lactating dairy cattle across any state lines.

Due to high survival rates of these influenza A pathogens in milk droplets, we are having to consider a new standard operating procedure in our milking parlor. OEF management would like to call out to see if there is someone who would volunteer to help manage our milking parlor for the 2024 year and help ensure it is sanitary after every milk. Without a volunteer, we will have to close the doors to the milking parlor for the 2024 fair. We want all cows to be healthy leaving our grounds and we encourage exhibitors to bring portable milkers and clean them after every milk.

If there is someone who would be willing to volunteer their time, please reach out to livestock department staff. We thank you for being willing to help minimize the spread of Influenza A and we look forward to welcoming you back to Springfield this year. Let us know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karson Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karson Thomas

Ozark Empire Fairgrounds | Livestock Director

Office: (417) 833-2660

Karson@ozarkempirefair.com