



June 26, 2024

Ozark Empire Fair Dairy Cattle Exhibitors:

I am writing this letter to inform all dairy cattle exhibitors of new decisions regarding the HPAI transmission during the Ozark Empire Fair. These items were discussed, again, by the Ozark Empire Fair board and livestock committee.

2 weeks ago, we informed the public of our health regulations regarding HPAI. This week, we are confirming our standings. A certified veterinarian inspection is still mandatory for all in state and out of state exhibitors. A negative testing milk sample within a 7 day period of exhibition is still mandatory for out of state exhibitors (under federal order). All in state exhibitors will not have to provide a negative test **UNLESS** a positive case is found in the state of Missouri. If a positive case is found between now and the fair, all lactating cows will have to provide a negative test result.

Under the guidance of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, we have ultimately decided on closing our milking parlor for the 2024 fair. Because of high survival rates and the unknown of how these pathogens spread across herds, we want to be as cautious as possible when it comes to milking. Finding a volunteer for keeping the feed barn healthy and clean is now off of the table and we will no longer be pursuing this option.

Once again, 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 and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karson Thomas".

Karson Thomas

Ozark Empire Fairgrounds | Livestock Director

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