

# Recommendations for Exhibitors of Lactating Dairy Cows Related to H5N1/Avian Influenza of Dairy Cattle

*Adapted from USDA APHIS [Guidance](#) (May, 2024)*

## Before the Event

- Become familiar with requirements for interstate movement as well as any state specific exhibition requirements prior to the event.
  - [Rules and Regulations Governing Movement and Handling of Livestock at Fairs and Exhibitions](#)
  - [Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) in Livestock](#)
  - APHIS strongly recommends minimizing movement of lactating dairy cattle as much as possible, with special attention to evaluating risk and factoring that risk into movement decisions.
    - Consult with your veterinarian to discuss risk.
  - Lactating dairy cattle moving interstate to an exhibition, show, or sale must have a negative test result from samples collected within 7 days of movement. These animals may travel to their home herd using the same negative test result provided the exhibition, show, or sale does not exceed 10 days of length.
  - **Lactating Dairy Cattle residing within Tennessee and moving to an exhibition, show, or sale within Tennessee (intrastate movement) do not require pre-movement testing.**
- Become familiar with signs of influenza in cattle and work with your veterinarian to ensure your animals are free of illness.
  - Signs of influenza in dairy cattle include decreased milk production; reduced appetite; thickened, discolored milk; lethargy; fever; and/or dehydration.
  - If you have any animals with clinical signs on the premises, do not move other animals off the premises.
- Ensure that any people that will be attending the fair or exhibition do not have any symptoms of illness.
- Clean and disinfect any equipment you will be bringing with you to the exhibition such as:
  - Feed equipment
  - Cleaning utensils
  - Grooming equipment
  - Vehicle and Trailer (inside and out)
  - Portable milking equipment
  - Use approved disinfectants that are safe for human and animal contact:  
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-m-registered-antimicrobial-products-label-claims-avian-influenza>
- Avoid transporting animals from different premises in the same trailer.

### During the Event

- Keep copies of certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs), vaccination records, and test results on hand and readily available.
- Observe cattle regularly for signs of influenza-like illness (e.g. decreased milk production; reduced appetite; thickened, discolored milk; lethargy; fever; and/or dehydration).
  - Report sick cattle to the show veterinarian and exhibition organizers.
- Sick animals should be immediately removed from the exhibition or moved to a designated temporary isolation area. Sick lactating dairy cattle can be evaluated on site before leaving the premises OR can be sent home and state animal health officials and your veterinarian should be contacted for follow up testing.
  - Interaction with the sick animal should be limited to only people caring for the animal.
  - Dedicated personal protective equipment (PPE) such as disposable gloves, gown/coveralls, and boots or boot covers should be worn by people caring for sick animals.
  - No treatment supplies, feed or water, portable milking equipment and supplies, or grooming supplies should be shared between sick animals and healthy animals.
  - Additional precautions should be taken by those caring for sick animals to minimize the opportunity for disease transmission to other cattle or people. Precautions could include hand washing before putting on and after taking off PPE, changing clothes and changing boots between activities.
- Follow the event's biosecurity plan.
  - Avoid close contact with other exhibitor's animals and avoid nose-to-nose contact between animals.
- Follow the event guidance for handling milk from lactating cows.
- Do not share tools, feed and water, portable milking equipment and supplies, or grooming supplies with other exhibitors.

### After the Event

- Isolate and observe animals daily for illness after returning home and before allowing contact with other animals.
  - 30-day isolation of lactating dairy cattle from other livestock is recommended.
  - Do not share equipment between show cattle and other animals at home.
- Discuss the need to test animals returning from an exhibition or fair for influenza A with your veterinarian.
- Consult your state or [local public health department](#) if exhibitors or family members develop [influenza-like illness](#) (e.g., fever or chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, tiredness, and/or vomiting and diarrhea) or conjunctivitis (red eyes) following the event. Testing and treatment for influenza A may be available. The Tennessee Department of Health can be reached at 615-741-7247 (24/7).
- Clean and disinfect all equipment you took to the show.
  - Use approved disinfectants that are safe for human and animal contact:  
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-m-registered-antimicrobial-products-label->

[claims-avian-influenza](#)

For any questions, please contact the State Veterinarian's Office at 615-837-5120 or [animal.health@tn.gov](mailto:animal.health@tn.gov) or the Tennessee Department of Health at 615-741-7247 or [cedep.investigation@tn.gov](mailto:cedep.investigation@tn.gov) .