

Biosecurity Practices to Minimize Spreading Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in Livestock (For Exhibit Organizers)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed in California dairy cows as of August 30, 2024. CDFA recommends that all exhibitions, shows, and competitions with lactating dairy cows be cancelled at this time. If lactating dairy cow events are not cancelled, then please follow the requirements and biosecurity recommendations below to prevent spread of HPAI:

Before the Exhibition

All **lactating cows** are **REQUIRED** to have a negative PCR test for H5N1 on milk and be accompanied by a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by a Category II accredited veterinarian. Testing must occur within 7 days before arriving at the fair following these guidelines: [Surveillance Testing of Dairy Cattle Protocol - For Producers](#).

Follow enhanced biosecurity practices for all dairy cattle at the fair like the following:

- Collect contact information from all exhibitors in the event of sudden procedural changes or incidents associated with the exhibition.
 - Document cattle farm origins and individual cow identification.
- Ensure handwashing stations with running water, soap, and paper towels are available near the exit of the exhibition area.
- Establish an official show veterinarian for the pre-entry inspection of each dairy animal during off-loading and throughout the event. No sick animals should be permitted to remain on site.
- Work with state animal health officials to understand interstate and intrastate testing and movement requirements for exhibition cattle and communicate these requirements to exhibitors.
 - Interstate movements of lactating dairy cattle must follow [Federal Requirements](#) and CA requirements



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- Develop and share a biosecurity plan for the event with exhibitors. The plan should:
 - Prevent co-mingling of cows from different herds, farms, and clubs.
 - Spaces should avoid nose to nose contact with a physical barrier (such as tarps).
 - Do not share feed or water troughs and buckets.
 - Keep all susceptible species such as poultry and swine exhibits, temporally and spatially separated from dairy cows.
 - Communicate exhibition milking expectations.
 - Reduce non-essential personnel in milking areas. It is recommended to pasteurize all waste milk before disposal.
 - Milk should be discarded according to state and local regulations and NOT sold or fed to other animals nor for human consumption.
 - Exhibitors should bring their own and not use shared milking parlor equipment.
 - Establish a protocol to immediately isolate sick cows.
 - Fair veterinarian to examine sick animals, initiate testing and notify your local [CDFA Animal Health District](#).
 - Designate an isolation area far from other cattle, other susceptible species, and the public with plans for milk discard.
 - Isolation areas should not share confined air space, panels/fence lines, feeding, or watering space with other animals. Consider an assigned milking unit solely for isolation use.
 - Prevent direct contact with the general public.

During the Exhibition

Due to the recent confirmations of HPAI H5N1 in California dairy cows and the infectious nature of this virus, all **live calving events** are **prohibited** on fairgrounds.

Communicate with exhibitors at the start of the exhibition to:

- Review animal disease control measures to be used during the exhibition, including the daily monitoring of the animals during the show and biosecurity measures.
- Notify exhibitors of different species to avoid entering other animal species exhibits.
- Provide specific actions that may be required if a cow becomes sick at the show (per the pre-event testing and movement requirements established with CA Animal Health Officials).
 - Become familiar with the signs of influenza in cattle: decreased milk production, reduced appetite, thickened and/or discolored milk, lethargy, fever, and droopy ears.
 - Notify your show veterinarian immediately and based on physical exam findings, contact your **local CDFA District**.
 - Sick animals should be moved into designated isolation area immediately and samples collected and submitted to the nearest **CAHFS laboratory**.
- Clean and disinfect equipment frequently.
 - Use approved disinfectants that are **safe** for human and animal contact:
 - Examples of Disinfectant Products*
 - 1-Stroke Environ™ - germicidal detergent
 - Tek-trol™ - Disinfectant cleaner concentrate
 - Nolvasan®S - Chlorhexidine diacetate
 - Clorox Regular Bleach - EPA: 5873-50 (sodium hypochlorite 6.0%)
 - Lysol Power & Fresh Multi-purpose cleaner® - EPA: 777-66 spray
 - Purell® - hand sanitizer



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- Ensure adequate ventilation and temperature controls are in place.
- Post signs near the exhibition area exits that instruct visitors to wash their hands when leaving the animal area.

After the Exhibition

Clean and disinfect exhibition areas.

- Use approved disinfectants that are **safe** for human and animal contact.

Hold a debrief meeting to discuss what went well and improvements for next year.

CDFA Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002
Redding District - (530) 225-2140
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
Ontario District - (909) 947-5932
USDA-APHIS-VS (916) 854-3950 or
(877)-741-3690

For more information, please visit our website at:

www.cdca.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/HPAI.html

**Disclaimer: Trade names used in this publication do not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the products, nor criticize similar products not mentioned. CDFA bears no responsibility for liability resulting from the use of the products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your cows; however, they will reduce risks.*