



For Immediate Release
April 25, 2024

USDA APHIS Announces Federal Order Requiring Influenza A Testing Prior to Interstate Lactating Dairy Cattle Movements

AUSTIN, TX – The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a [federal order](#), effective April 29, 2024, requiring lactating dairy cattle to receive a negative test for Influenza A virus at an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory, prior to interstate movement.

To further protect the U.S. livestock industry from highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza, USDA announced mandatory testing and reporting requirements for lactating dairy cattle. The USDA may provide additional guidance, based on scientific factors concerning the virus and its evolving risk profile, for other classes of dairy cattle and specific classes of lactating dairy cattle including those being sent to slaughter. Currently, all lactating dairy cattle moving interstate must adhere to conditions specified by USDA APHIS.

Owners of herds in which dairy cattle test positive for interstate movement will be required to provide epidemiological information, including animal movement tracing. Additionally, the order requires mandatory reporting to USDA APHIS by laboratories and state veterinarians for positive Influenza A nucleic acid detection diagnostic results (e.g. PCR or genetic sequencing) in livestock and positive Influenza A serology diagnostic results in livestock.

Additionally, USDA APHIS announced it will provide reimbursement for testing at NAHLN laboratories for samples submitted for dairy cattle suspected of disease due to clinical signs, pre-movement testing, producers interested in the disease status of their asymptomatic animals, and samples taken from other animals on dairies associated with this disease event.

While the interstate movement of animals infected with HPAI is already prohibited by the USDA, the distinct detection of HPAI H5N1 virus genotype in dairy cattle poses a new animal disease risk for dairy cattle and an additional risk for poultry. The federal order requires measures to be taken to reduce the threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in multiple industries and helps protect the health of livestock in the U.S.

In an effort to maximize understanding and research on H5N1 in dairy cattle, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and USDA APHIS are urging dairy cattle producers and those who work in or with the industry to share epidemiological information from affected farms, even if they are not planning to move cattle interstate. If you believe dairy cattle within your herd are showing these signs, contact your herd veterinarian immediately.

For additional guidance and information, please refer to forthcoming USDA APHIS guidance documents or contact the [USDA](#) related to this federal order.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- United States Detections of HPAI webpage:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>
- Human health guidance and information: [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

###

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.