

State Department of Agriculture Announces Testing Requirements for Lactating Dairy Cattle Entering Fairs or Exhibitions to Prevent HPAI Transmission

FAQ's Regarding June 18, 2024 NYSAGM Press Release <https://agriculture.ny.gov/news/state-department-agriculture-announces-testing-requirements-lactating-dairy-cattle-entering>

-What animals need a test?

All **lactating dairy cattle** will need a test to enter the New York State Fair, any county fairs or other exhibitions.

-What sample are we testing?

Milk. Please reach out to the diagnostic laboratory you will be using for specific testing info. Cornell ADHC link is [here](#).

-Where do I get a test?

You need to request a Bovine Avian Influenza Virus PCR (or Influenza A Virus in Cattle) test from an approved [NAHLN laboratory](#).

-Who takes samples?

Veterinarians are accountable for signing that samples were collected appropriately.

-Who can submit the sample?

Samples must be submitted to a NAHLN laboratory under the direction of a veterinarian.

-What's the turn-around time?

Contact the NAHLN laboratory. Be mindful of shipping time as well.

-What needs to be on the test submission form for animal identification?

The cow's official ID (840 or NUES tag) needs to be on the test submission.

-How long is the test good for?

A negative test result is good for fair or show entry for seven days from sample collection (which is the day the milk was collected).

-Can I collect samples on a Monday for a show the following Monday?

Yes. Seven days prior (one week) is the limit for sample collection. Samples for Monday show should be collected no earlier than the previous Monday. Samples for a Sunday show could be collected no earlier than the previous Sunday. It is calendar days prior, not business days.

-Does an exhibitor need a second test to go from one fair to another?

All lactating dairy cows will need a negative HPAI test result within seven days to enter each new fairground or exhibition.

-Who pays for the sample collection, shipping and testing?

Fees for testing bovine specimens for HPAI are paid by the USDA. USDA is supporting producers by covering fees for veterinarians to collect samples for H5N1 testing. Veterinary sample collection costs are eligible to be covered from April 29, 2024 (the date the Federal

Order went into effect), up to \$2,000 per premises. USDA will pay for the cost of shipping samples to NAHLN labs for testing, not to exceed \$50 per shipment for up to 2 shipments per month for each premises. The press release explaining this is here:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2024/05/23/usda-expands-support-producers-stop-spread-h5n1-dairy-cattle>

To seek reimbursement for veterinary costs associated with sample collection or shipping costs for New York samples, contact New York USDA APHIS AVIC, Dr. John Falco, at john.falco@usda.gov. To seek reimbursement for herds in other states, please contact the AVIC in your state.

-Does an exhibitor need a test copy, or can it be recorded on the fair CVI by the veterinarian? Since the test is only valid for 7 days and because some exhibitors may go to several fairs or exhibitions in one season, we strongly recommend bringing a copy of the test results to present at each animal check-in. The test results should include laboratory, accession, date, test result and animals tested (official ID).

-Is a test result required to be on a fair CVI?

No, not required. If results are written on the CVI by the testing veterinarian, please list laboratory, accession, date, test result, and animals tested. A lab report from a NAHLN laboratory showing the animal's official identification is also sufficient.

-If my client doesn't have test results, can their cattle get into the fair?

No. Lactating dairy cattle will not be allowed to enter the fairgrounds or exhibition without negative test results. Cattle with pending tests will not be allowed entry.

-What happens with birthing exhibits?

No test is required for dairy cattle that are not lactating at the time of entry to the fair or exhibit.

-What are the expectations for pre-entry testing at non-state-sponsored shows?

Lactating cattle at all shows or exhibitions are required to have pre-entry Influenza A test results from an approved NAHLN laboratory. It will be the responsibility of the individual event to monitor arrivals for test results.