

HPAI H5N1 In Dairy Cattle: Update and Federal Order Guidelines for Interstate Movement of Dairy Cattle

Written by Amber Machia, Dairy Research Specialist, University of Vermont Extension, and Heather Darby, Extension Professor and Agronomy Specialist, University of Vermont Extension

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A Federal Order announced by the USDA effective on Monday, April 29, 2024 **requires that lactating dairy cattle test negative for H5N1** and obtain a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) prior to movement across state lines.

Interstate movement of **lactating cattle directly to slaughter facilities** must travel with Owner Shipper Statement documentation.

The Federal Order does not apply to non-lactating dairy cattle (dry cows, heifers, and bull calves). There have been no confirmed cases of H5N1 identified in Vermont or surrounding states at this time.

Updated guidance can be found on the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets website linked at the end of this document.

Testing

A composite milk sample containing milk from all four quarters must be taken by a licensed veterinarian or approved state animal health official. Samples can be processed only by an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). USDA funding will be utilized to reimburse qualified laboratories for testing samples. Producers are responsible for covering the cost of sample collection or shipping. Current turnaround time for test results is 1-3 days.

Sick Cattle

Lactating cattle that are exhibiting any clinical signs of the virus including, but not limited to: nasal discharge or other respiratory symptoms, abnormal manure, dehydration or lethargy cannot be moved across state lines.

Transporting Lactating Cattle Across State Lines for Non-Slaughter Purposes

Interstate movement of lactating cattle from non-positive herds for non-slaughter purposes requires a CVI that includes documentation of negative H5N1 test (completed by an approved NAHLN) and corresponding official identification (ID) within 7 days of transport across state lines. There are additional guidelines for the testing and transport of groups of lactating dairy cattle across state lines, which can be found on the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Foods and Markets website linked at the end of this document.

Transporting Lactating Cattle for Slaughter

Healthy lactating cattle moving from farm to slaughter facility across states lines must travel with an *Owner Shipper Statement* in lieu of a CVI and negative test. This document can be completed online and must be submitted (either online or by email) to the animal's state of origin and the state it is being transported to.

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Animals crossing state lines under an Owner Shipper Statement must be traveling directly to a slaughter facility in that state and must not have any interim stops or offloading after crossing out of the origin state. The Owner Shipper Statement is available on the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets website and linked below.

Healthy lactating cattle that are moving from farm to an auction market within the same state do not require CVI or testing.

Additional Resources Are Available

If you have any questions about HPAI or detect signs or symptoms associated with the virus or about cattle transport guidelines, contact your herd veterinarian.

Updates will be posted regularly to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets website: [HPAI in Dairy Cows - An Emerging Animal Health Issue | Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Owner Shipper Statement: [National OSS fillable form effective April 30, 2024.pdf \(vermont.gov\)](#)

[Additional information is available:](#)

[Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Detections in Livestock | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

[Avian \(Bovine\) Influenza A in Dairy Cows - Healthy Farms Healthy Agriculture](#)

[Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 in U.S. Dairy Herds April2024.pdf \(uvm.edu\)](#)

For more information, please contact Amber Machia, University of Vermont, amber.machia@uvm.edu, or Heather Darby, University of Vermont, heather.darby@uvm.edu or 802-782-6054.

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