

# Emerging Disease in Dairy Cattle

April 12, 2024

On March 25, 2024, federal and state veterinary and public health agencies announced the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in dairy cattle herds in Texas and Kansas. Subsequently, dairy herds in Idaho, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio and South Dakota have been confirmed with the virus. These herds all exhibited a similar clinical syndrome (Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome (H5N1)), which has been classified as an emerging disease. Information regarding this syndrome is rapidly evolving. Please visit the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) webpage for the *latest information* on this disease complex [[Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Detections in Livestock | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#)].

**The clinical signs associated with this syndrome include decreased milk production; reduced appetite; thickened, discolored milk; lethargy; fever; and/or dehydration.** This syndrome is a **Reportable Disease** in Florida under Chapter 5C-20 Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Any Florida cattle showing clinical signs consistent with this syndrome **should be reported immediately** to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) at: [www.FDACS.gov/RAD](http://www.FDACS.gov/RAD).

## Effective immediately:

- No cattle exposed to or infected with Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome may be imported into Florida.
- No lactating dairy cattle originating from a state that has a suspected or confirmed case of Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome may be imported into Florida.
- All non-lactating dairy cattle originating from a state with a suspected or confirmed case of Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome must have an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection within **10 days** of importation.

Affected states are:

**Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota and Texas.**

## IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DAIRY CATTLE: 5CER24-4

Temporary Restrictions on the Importation of Dairy Cattle.

(1) Definitions. For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome" means the viral infection in cattle caused by the Highly Pathogenic Strain of Avian Influenza H5N1, resulting in clinical signs including decreased milk production; reduced appetite; thickened, discolored milk; lethargy; fever; and/or dehydration.

(b) "Exposed cattle" means any cattle that have been on a premises where animals have displayed clinical signs consistent with or have tested positive for Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome.

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(c) “Infected cattle” means any cattle testing positive for the H5N1 Influenza virus.

(d) “Suspected case” means a cow exhibiting clinical signs of Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome.

(2) No cattle exposed to or infected with Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome may be imported into Florida.

(3) No lactating dairy cattle originating from a state that has a suspected or confirmed case of Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome may be imported into Florida.

(4) Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI). Notwithstanding rule 5C-3.002(1)(c), F.A.C., non-lactating dairy cattle that do not meet the definitions in (1)(b) or (c) of this rule, but that originate from a state with a suspected or confirmed case of Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome, must be accompanied by a lawful OCVI that was completed no more than 10 days prior to importation into Florida.

Currently, Florida has no reported cases. FDACS recommends livestock owners and veterinarians implement stringent biosecurity practices on their premises.

For the latest information regarding the requirements for interstate movement of livestock, please check the website [www.InterstateLivestock.com](http://www.InterstateLivestock.com) or contact the state animal health official in the state of destination [[State Veterinarians \(usaha.org\)](http://StateVeterinarians.usaha.org)]. Interstate movement regulations are changing rapidly and should be verified prior to each movement.

Farm Biosecurity Resources are available at:

- [The Secure Milk Supply Plan](#) offers comprehensive dairy biosecurity practices.
- [Biosecurity - National Dairy FARM Program](#)
- [Biosecurity for cattle operations | UMN Extension](#)
- [Biosecurity Practices for Dairy Operations \(tamu.edu\)](#)
- [Farm Biosecurity - CFSPH \(iastate.edu\)](#)
- Although one human case has been observed during this recent event, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to human health to be low. In addition, the USDA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), consider the U.S. commercial milk supply to be safe because products are pasteurized before entering the market. The FDA does continue to stress that milk and milk products should be pasteurized, and the consumption of raw milk has numerous health risks.
- CDC Information: [H5N1 Bird Flu: Current Situation Summary | Avian Influenza \(Flu\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- FDA Information: [Questions and Answers Regarding Milk Safety During Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Outbreaks | FDA](#)