

Emerging Disease in Dairy Cattle

May 9, 2024

Updates in green

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, South Dakota and Colorado 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 and map of Affected States* for 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 **testing positive for Influenza A**, or showing clinical signs consistent with this syndrome **must be reported immediately** to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) at: www.FDACS.gov/RAD.

By Federal Order effective April 29, 2024, all lactating dairy cattle moving interstate are required to have a negative Influenza A test within 7 days of movement. Lactating dairy cattle moving directly to slaughter are exempt from testing.

Effective immediately:

- No cattle exposed to or infected with Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome may be imported into Florida.
- All dairy cattle must comply with the Federal Order and additionally Florida Emergency Rule [5CER24-6](#).
- Lactation status must be listed on Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for dairy cattle.
- All lactating dairy cattle must be accompanied by an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) that includes:
 - Negative Influenza A test within 7 days of entry.
 - Certification of lactation status.
 - Statement that the cattle are both free from, and have not been exposed to, a known contagious and infectious disease.
- 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:

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

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IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DAIRY CATTLE: [5CER24-6](#)

Temporary Restrictions on the Importation of Dairy Cattle.

[5CER24-6](#) Temporary Restrictions on the Importation of Dairy Cattle.

(1) Except where more stringent requirements are adopted herein, dairy cattle being imported into Florida must meet the testing and movement requirements of the *Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Livestock* (“Federal Order”) and *APHIS Requirements and Recommendations for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 Virus in Livestock For State Animal Health Officials, Accredited Veterinarians and Producers* (“APHIS Requirements”), both of which are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference. The *Case Definition for Avian Influenza (AI)* cited within the APHIS Requirements is also hereby adopted and incorporated by reference. These documents are available for review at <https://www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry>.

(2) “Exposed cattle” or cattle originating from an H5N1 Influenza virus “affected herd,” as those terms are defined in the APHIS Requirements, may not be imported into Florida.

(3) In addition to the requirements set forth in the Federal Order and APHIS Requirements, the following documentation is required when importing dairy cattle into Florida:

(a) Dairy cattle originating from a state **that does not** have any suspected or confirmed cases of Bovine Associated Influenza A (H5N1), must continue to meet the Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) requirements set forth in rule 5C-3.002, F.A.C. The OCVI must include the following information:

(i) The lactation status of the animal (lactating or non-lactating).

(ii) For lactating dairy cattle required to test negative for Bovine Associated Influenza A (H5N1) pursuant to subsection (1), the negative test results, laboratory name, accession number, and test date. Notwithstanding rule 5C-3.002(1)(c), F.A.C., the OCVI and test date must be no more than 7 days prior to importation into Florida.

(b) Dairy cattle originating from a state with an “affected herd,” as that term is defined in the APHIS Requirements, must be accompanied by a lawful OCVI which includes:

(i) The lactation status of the animal (lactating or non-lactating).

(ii) For lactating dairy cattle required to test negative for Bovine Associated Influenza A (H5N1) pursuant to subsection (1), the negative test results, laboratory name, accession number, and test date. Notwithstanding rule 5C-3.002(1)(c), F.A.C., the OCVI issue date and test date must be no more than 7 days prior to importation into Florida.

(iii) Notwithstanding rule 5C-3.002(1)(c), F.A.C., the OCVI issue date for non-lactating dairy cattle must be no more than 10 days prior to importation into Florida.

(4) Exception for Movement to Slaughter. Notwithstanding the requirements set forth within this rule, lactating dairy cattle being imported into Florida and moving directly to slaughter are not required to be tested for the H5N1 Influenza virus if they are accompanied by a lawful OCVI or an Owner-Shipper Statement that complies with the requirements set forth in rule chapter 5C-3, F.A.C., and was issued within 10 days of entry into Florida.

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Rulemaking Authority 570.07(21), (23), 585.002(4), 585.08(2)(a), 585.145(2) FS. Law Implemented 585.08(1), 585.145 FS. History–New, Replaces 5CER24-4.

Currently, Florida has no reported cases of **Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome (H5N1)**. 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 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 worker biosecurity is a critical part of the overall protection of our Florida animal industries. Please ensure all employees and visitors entering your farm are practicing proper biosecurity procedures. Biosecurity recommendations and frequently answered questions (English & Spanish) are located at:

- ✓ [Hpai-dairy-faqs.pdf \(usda.gov\)](http://Hpai-dairy-faqs.pdf(usda.gov))
- ✓ [Hpai-dairy-faqs APHIS 20240409 ES \(usda.gov\)](http://Hpai-dairy-faqsAPHIS20240409ES(usda.gov))
- ✓ [Recommendations-workers-hpai-livestock.pdf \(usda.gov\)](http://Recommendations-workers-hpai-livestock.pdf(usda.gov))
- ✓ [Recommendations-hpai-livestock.pdf \(usda.gov\)](http://Recommendations-hpai-livestock.pdf(usda.gov))
- ✓ [Recommendations for Worker Protection and Use of Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) to Reduce Exposure to Novel Influenza A Viruses Associated with Severe Disease in Humans | Avian Influenza \(Flu\) \(cdc.gov\)](http://RecommendationsforWorkerProtectionandUseofPersonalProtectiveEquipment(PPE)toReduceExposuretoNovelInfluenzaAVirusesAssociatedwithSevereDiseaseinHumans|AvianInfluenza(Flu)(cdc.gov))
- ✓ [Recomendaciones para la protección de los trabajadores y el uso del equipo de protección personal \(EPP\) para disminuir la exposición a los nuevos virus de la influenza aviar tipo A asociados a enfermedades graves en los seres humanos | Influenza aviar \(gripe\) \(cdc.gov\)](http://Recomendacionesparalaproteccióndelostrabajadoresyelusodelequipo deprotecciónpersonal(EPP)paradisminuir la exposición a los nuevos virus de la influenza aviar tipo A asociados a enfermedades graves en los seres humanos | Influenza aviar (gripe)(cdc.gov))

Farm Biosecurity Resources are available at: **[New additions = Checkmarks]**

- ✓ [Dairy-Cattle-Biosecurity-Recommendations-Influenza-V1.1.pdf \(nmpf.org\)](http://Dairy-Cattle-Biosecurity-Recommendations-Influenza-V1.1.pdf(nmpf.org))
- ✓ [Dairy-Cattle-Biosecurity-Recommendations-Influenza-V1-Sp.pdf \(nmpf.org\)](http://Dairy-Cattle-Biosecurity-Recommendations-Influenza-V1-Sp.pdf(nmpf.org))
- [The Secure Milk Supply Plan](#) offers comprehensive dairy biosecurity practices.
- [Biosecurity - National Dairy FARM Program](#)
- ✓ [HPAI Resources - NMPF](#)
- [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.

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- 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](#)