

Emerging Disease in Dairy Cattle

March 28, 2025

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 [Arizona](#), California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, [Oregon](#), South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming 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 [[HPAI Confirmed Cases 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 [5CER25-1](#). For full Emergency Rule text, see below.
- 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.

Temporary Restrictions on the Importation and Exhibition of Dairy Cattle.

5CER25-1 Temporary Restrictions on the Importation and Exhibition 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 referenced in rule chapter 5C-3, Florida Administrative Code, as well as the Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Livestock (4/24/24) (“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 (5/14/24) (“APHIS Requirements”), both of which are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference. The Case Definition for Avian Influenza (AI) (August 2024) 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 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:

1. The lactation status of the animal (lactating or non-lactating).
2. 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:

1. The lactation status of the animal (lactating or non-lactating).
2. 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.
3. 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.

(5) Exception for Interstate Movement Testing. Notwithstanding the requirements set forth within this rule, dairy cattle are exempt from the individual animal import testing requirements referenced in this rule if they originate from a Monitored Unaffected Herd, as defined in USDA HPAI Dairy Herd Status Program, APHIS-24-029, October 2024. USDA HPAI Dairy Herd Status Program, APHIS-24-029, October 2024, is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference and is available for review at <https://www.fdac.gov/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry>.

(6) Exhibition. In addition to meeting the requirements described in rule chapter 5C-4, F.A.C., the following are required for Exhibition dairy cattle:

(a) Testing: All imported and Florida origin lactating dairy cattle and pregnant dairy cattle with an expected calving date within 30 days of exhibition, are required to test negative for Bovine Associated Influenza A (H5N1) within 7 days before entry to an exhibition and must leave the exhibition within 10 days of arrival.

(b) OCVI:

1. Imported dairy cattle presented for exhibition must meet the OCVI requirements as specified in this rule.
2. Florida origin dairy cattle may utilize an OCVI for 90 days. The OCVI must include:
 - a. The Official Identification Number of each animal, as defined in 9 C.F.R. § 86.1 (2018), which is incorporated by reference in rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.,
 - b. The herd of origin,
 - c. If required by this rule, the H5N1 test accession number, result and sample collection date of the initial test submission, and,
 - d. The exhibitor name(s).

(c) For Florida origin dairy cattle required to test negative for H5N1 as specified in subsection (6), the OCVI must be accompanied by laboratory test results dated within 7 days before an animal's arrival at the exhibition and must be provided at each exhibition event. The accompanying laboratory test record must include:

1. The Official Identification Number of each animal, as defined in 9 C.F.R. § 86.1 (2018), which is incorporated by reference in rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.,
2. The date of test sample collection,
3. The herd of origin, and
4. The OCVI number.

(d) Exception for Intrastate Movement Testing. Florida origin dairy cattle are exempt from the individual animal testing requirements referenced in this rule if they originate from a Monitored Unaffected Herd, as defined in USDA HPAI Dairy Herd Status Program, APHIS-24-029, October 2024, which is adopted in subsection (5) of this rule.

(e) All dairy cattle must be milked with equipment specific to the herd of origin. No animals originating from different premises are to be milked with communal or shared milking equipment. When disposing of milk, it must be discarded in accordance with applicable laws and rules and in a manner that minimizes the possibility of human or animal contact with raw milk.

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))
- [Bird Flu | Bird Flu | CDC](http://BirdFlu|BirdFlu|CDC)
- [Influenza aviar | Influenza aviar | CDC](http://Influenzaaviar|Influenzaaviar|CDC)

Farm Biosecurity Resources are available at:

- [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](http://TheSecureMilkSupplyPlan) offers comprehensive dairy biosecurity practices.
- [Biosecurity - National Dairy FARM Program](http://Biosecurity-NationalDairyFARMProgram)
- [HPAI Resources - NMPF](http://HPAIResources-NMPF)
- [Biosecurity for cattle operations | UMN Extension](http://Biosecurityforcattleoperations|UMNExtension)
- [Biosecurity Practices for Dairy Operations \(tamu.edu\)](http://BiosecurityPracticesforDairyOperations(tamu.edu))
- [Farm Biosecurity - CFSPH \(iastate.edu\)](http://FarmBiosecurity-CFSPH(iastate.edu))
- Although human cases have 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 \(Flu\) \(cdc.gov\)](http://H5N1BirdFlu:CurrentSituationSummary|AvianInfluenza(Flu)(cdc.gov))
 - FDA Information:
 - [Cat and Dog Food Manufacturers Required to Consider H5N1 in Food Safety Plans | FDA](http://CatandDogFoodManufacturersRequiredtoConsiderH5N1inFoodSafetyPlans|FDA)
 - [The Dangers of Raw Milk: Unpasteurized Milk Can Pose a Serious Health Risk | FDA](http://TheDangersofRawMilk:UnpasteurizedMilkCanPoseaSeriousHealthRisk|FDA)
 - [Investigation of Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\) Virus in Dairy Cattle | FDA](http://InvestigationofAvianInfluenzaA(H5N1)VirusinDairyCattle|FDA)