



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PO Box 400
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

EDWARD D. WENGRYN
Secretary

TO: All County Extension Agents, Show Secretaries, and Veterinarians

FROM: Amar Patil, DVM, MVSc, Ph.D., Dipl. ACVM
Director, Division of Animal Health and State Veterinarian

DATE: May 31, 2024

SUBJECT: ***2024 Fair/Show Animal Health Recommendations Addendum: Biosecurity for Exhibition Dairy Cattle***

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) has been closely monitoring the emerging disease event of Influenza A in cattle. As the disease continues to impact dairy cattle throughout the country, specific recommendations and requirements for the handling and movement of lactating dairy cattle have been communicated to dairy farmers and other stakeholders. As the fair and show season approaches, the NJDA is providing event organizers with recommendations for safeguarding the health of exhibition cattle and the attendees. The NJDA has established event protocols and biosecurity strategies for shows permitting entry of lactating dairy cattle. With consideration of USDA guidance and practical implementation of biosecurity procedures, the NJDA recommends the following measures for fair/show organizers.

General Event Planning

- Ensure that accurate exhibitor contact information is on file to facilitate prompt communication, should it be necessary
- Collect and maintain farm origin and identification for all cattle entered in the event
- In collaboration with the fair veterinarian, develop a written site-specific biosecurity plan for the event

Biosecurity and Animal Handling Recommendations

- Limit co-mingling of cows from different herds, which includes avoiding direct contact and maintaining separate equipment between cattle of different origins
- If lactating cows are present only healthy cows should be milked while at the exhibition
 - Alternatively lactating cattle could be limited at the fair and if present milked off-site or at their home farm.
- All waste or discarded milk should be disposed of appropriately per state and local regulations
 - Waste milk should be acidified, pasteurized, or heat-treated before being disposed

- Disposal in a manner that will attract wild animals is strongly discouraged
- Feeding it to livestock or other animals is prohibited unless pasteurized or heat-treated
 - Heat treatment should at minimum be similar to times and temperatures commonly found in commercial milk pasteurization processing
- Designate isolation areas and plans for milk discarded from sick cows
- Immediately isolate sick cows and contact the event veterinarian and state veterinarian.
- Sick cows should return to their farm of origin for isolation and treatment
 - Shipment trailers should be cleaned and disinfected appropriately
- If immediate transport of sick cattle is not possible, isolation areas should be located away from all other animals and the public
 - Isolation areas should not share confined air space, panels/fence lines, feeding, or watering space with other animals
 - Do not allow the general public into isolation areas
 - Outline cleaning and disinfection procedures for both exhibition and isolation areas
- Exhibitors should develop and maintain biosecurity and isolation plans at their home farms for when healthy or sick exhibited cattle return to the home farm,
- Exhibitors should provide their own feed and bedding, which should not be shared with cattle from different origin farms
- Review animal health monitoring plan to be utilized during the exhibition
- Clean and disinfect equipment frequently
 - Use approved disinfectants that are safe for human and animal contact: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-m-registered-antimicrobial-products-label-claims-avian-influenza>
- Ensure adequate ventilation and temperature control within the animal housing area

Human Health Recommendations

- Provide hand-cleaning stations/facilities and post signs reminding visitors to wash their hands before and after contact with animals
 - Provide running water, soap, and paper towels to dry hands. Hand washing stations should be accessible to all guests, including children and persons with disabilities.
 - Post signs indicating the location of hand-cleaning stations and or facilities
 - Provide alcohol-based hand rubs for use on clean hands
 - Adults should supervise children during hand-washing
- Maintain safe and clean stations/facilities to protect visitors and animals
- Trash cans should be available and emptied regularly
- Do not allow human food or drink in animal contact areas
- Instruct visitors to not eat, drink, smoke, place their hands in their mouth, or use bottles or pacifiers while in animal contact areas.
- Visitors should supervise children closely in animal contact areas to prevent hand-to-mouth contact with soiled bedding.
- Keep strollers, pacifiers, toys, and baby bottles out of animal contact areas.

- Post signs that animals can carry germs that can make people sick and that children younger than 5 years, people 65 years and older, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk from diseases that can spread from animals to people.

Recommendations for Exhibitors

- Prior to movement, the fair may require intrastate lactating cattle to be Influenza A tested, as part of but not in lieu of a robust biosecurity plan
- Exhibitors should clean and disinfect all their equipment on site, such as:
 - Feed equipment
 - Cleaning utensils
 - Grooming equipment
 - Vehicle and Trailer (inside and out)
 - Portable milking equipment
 - Use approved disinfectants that are safe for human and animal contact
- Exhibitors should avoid transporting animals from different premises in the same trailer and it is recommended that owners transport their own cattle only
- Any shared conveyances (of cattle, feed, or equipment) should be appropriately cleaned and disinfected between uses
- Avoid close contact with other exhibitor's animals and avoid nose-to-nose contact between animals
- Do not share tools, feed, water, milking equipment, and supplies, or grooming supplies with other exhibitors
- Exhibitors should only use their own milking equipment
- When it is not possible to have individual origin herd-only units for milking, a protocol of disinfecting the milking unit between cows should be established
- Use appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) when handling, and particularly, milking cows
 - The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for the use of PPE when working with animals or materials confirmed infected or potentially infected with avian influenza can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/worker-protection-ppe.htm>
 - Additional information to protect public health at fairs can be found at:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/groups.htm>
- Lactating animals moving interstate (movement of an out-of-state animal into New Jersey) to an exhibition, show, or sale must have a negative Influenza A test result from samples collected within 7 days of the movement. These animals may travel to their home herd using the same negative test result provided the exhibition, show, or sale does not exceed 10 days of length.

Event organizers are highly encouraged to work with their fair/show veterinarians to tailor their written biosecurity and animal handling policies. The NJDA recommends that fair/show management arrange for veterinary medical assistance to be on-call for the exhibition's duration. All animal exhibitors should be aware of the local livestock-accredited veterinarian(s) willing to provide medical attention for the animals being exhibited. As a reminder, livestock showing clinical signs consistent with Influenza A in cattle (decreased appetite, drop in milk production,

thickened milk, abnormal feces, and fever) should be reported to a veterinarian and the NJDA Division of Animal Health (DAH) at 609-671-6400. There are currently no detections or suspect cases in New Jersey. The NJDA will continue to monitor the national situation and re-evaluate recommendations as needed. Please review the 2024 Fair/Show Animal Health Recommendations, Regulations, and Forms document for additional information about managing exhibition livestock at shows.