

Public Information on the Lifting of the Exhibition Ban

Q. Why did CDFA decide to lift the poultry and dairy cattle exhibition ban?

The decision was made following extensive review of current H5N1 infection trends, ongoing surveillance data, and consultation with epidemiologists and animal health experts. CDFA determined that current conditions allow for exhibitions to resume with appropriate safeguards in place.

Q. Was this decision made quickly or under pressure?

No. This decision was not made lightly. CDFA has been closely monitoring viral activity and transmission patterns from the beginning and has maintained regular discussions with state and federal partners before determining that the risk had sufficiently decreased.

Q. What steps are being taken to protect animal health at fairs and exhibitions?

CDFA is working closely with fairgrounds and exhibition organizers to ensure measures are in place to prevent the exhibition of sick animals, promote biosecurity, and rapidly respond if H5N1 is suspected.

Q. Does lifting the ban mean there is no longer a risk?

While overall risk has decreased, disease risk is not zero. CDFA continues to emphasize vigilance, early disease detection, and responsible animal management to protect animals, exhibitors, and the public.

Q. Will CDFA continue monitoring H5N1?

Yes. CDFA will continue regular statewide surveillance and risk assessments and will adjust guidance as needed to protect California agriculture and public health.