



CDFA Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (HPAI) in Livestock Monitored Herd Pilot Program Requirements

To address public health concerns regarding the emerging Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (HPAI) H5N1 disease event in livestock the California Department of Food and Agriculture has developed a Monitored Herd Pilot Program. Currently, the program is voluntary and requires enrolled dairy producers to collect samples from lactating cattle on a routine basis.

Monitored Herd Participation Criteria:

1. The dairy owner must agree to follow the [Healthy Lactating Dairy Cattle Testing Protocol for use in Pre-Movement or Surveillance](#) developed by CDFA to enroll.
 - a. Collect samples under the direction of an accredited veterinarian following Option 1 in the Healthy Lactating Dairy Cattle Testing Protocol.
 - b. Submit samples once a week for 4 weeks then every other week thereafter based on sample size outlined in the Healthy Lactating Dairy Cattle Testing Protocol.
 - c. Collect bulk tank samples representative of all cattle in the milking string:
 - i. The bulk tank sample needs to be representative of all cattle in a lactating herd in a 24-hour period
 - ii. Collect a minimum of seven (7) mls of milk from the bulk tank
 - iii. Sample collection vial required: 5 ml sterile screw top tubes/vials (No snap cap tubes)
 - d. Collect bulk tank sample representative all cattle in the hospital (sick) pen:
 - i. Sample needs to be representative of all cattle in the hospital pen
 - ii. Collect a minimum of seven (7) mls of milk from the hospital tank.
 - iii. Sample collection vial required: 5 ml sterile screw top tubes/vials
 - e. Provide National Premises Identification Number (NPIN) on the laboratory submission form and check the box for “Monitored Herd Surveillance” on the form.
2. The dairy owner agrees to allow CDFA to verify monitored herd status to third parties requesting verification. A letter from the State Veterinarian will be provided to the dairy owner verifying participation in the Monitored Herd Pilot Program.
3. The dairy owner must agree to allow CDFA personnel to conduct audits of sampling procedures at a frequency of every other month.
4. In the event clinical signs of HPAI H5N1 are observed on the dairy outside the sampling frequency specified in 1.b. above, the dairy owner will notify CDFA, collect samples from cattle with clinical signs and submit the samples to the laboratory.
5. If the dairy owner fails to comply with the above requirements the premises may be removed from the monitored herd program unless the owner complies with corrective actions outlined by CDFA.
6. Participants are strongly encouraged to implement an enhanced biosecurity protocol.
7. Participants are strongly encouraged to test any new additions to the herd prior to arrival on premises for HPAI H5N1 (this includes non-lactating cattle) and to isolate new additions for a minimum of 30 days upon arrival while monitoring for signs of disease.

A herd is considered enrolled as a Monitored Herd participant once the CDFA Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Livestock Monitored Herd Agreement is signed and received by CDFA.

Questions about the program and how to enroll can be directed to: ahbfeedback@cdfa.ca.gov

