

# Biosecurity Practices to Minimize Risk of Spreading Bovine Influenza A Virus For Dairy Cattle Exhibitors

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Practicing good biosecurity can greatly reduce the risk of spread of animal diseases especially during fair season. Since March 2024, the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus has been investigated in dairy cows. Although HPAI is deadly in domestic poultry species, it is less severe in cattle but remains a concern for all livestock and humans who come into contact with infected animals. Practicing good biosecurity during fair season will greatly reduce the risk of disease spread. Here are some recommendations for dairy cattle exhibitors:



## Before the Exhibition

- Become familiar with the requirements for interstate movement as well as any state specific exhibition requirements prior to the event.
  - APHIS strongly recommends minimizing movement of cattle as much as possible, with special attention to evaluating risk and factoring that risk into movement decisions.
    - Discuss risks with your veterinarian.
  - Lactating animals moving interstate to an exhibition, show, or sale must have a negative test result from samples collected within 7 days of movement. These animals may travel to their home herd using the same negative test result provided to the exhibition, show, or sale if it does not exceed 10 days of length.
  - Ensure that any people showing or tending animals at the fair or exhibition do not have any symptoms of illness.
  - Avoid transporting any animals from different premises in the same trailer.

## Continued

- Clean and disinfect any equipment you will be bringing with you to the fair or exhibition such as:
  - Feed and water 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:
  - Examples of Disinfectant Products\*
  - 1-Stroke Environ™ - germicidal detergent
  - Tek-trol™ - Disinfectant cleaner concentrate
  - Nolvasan®S - Chlorhexidine diacetate
  - Clorox Regular Bleach - EPA: 5873-50 (sodium hypochlorite 6.0%)
  - Lysol Power & Fresh Multi-purpose cleaner® - EPA: 777-66 spray

### APHIS Requirements and Recommendations for HPAI in Livestock

[bit.ly/APHIS\\_HPAIinLivestock](https://bit.ly/APHIS_HPAIinLivestock)

**If your dairy cows show any signs of illness, please do not bring them to the exhibition nor attend yourself.**

Become familiar with the signs of influenza in cattle and work with your veterinarian to ensure your animals are free of illness:

- Decreased milk production
- Reduced appetite
- Thickened and/or discolored milk
- Lethargy
- Fever
- Dehydration



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## During the Exhibition

- Keep copies of certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs), vaccination records, and test results on hand and readily available.
- Observe cattle regularly for signs of influenza-like illness
  - Report sick cattle to the show veterinarian and exhibition organizers.
- Follow the event's biosecurity plan.
  - Avoid close contact with other exhibitor's animals and avoid nose to nose contact between animals.
- Follow the event guidance for handling milk from lactating cows.
- Do not share tools, halters, feed and water buckets, portable milking equipment and supplies, or grooming supplies with other exhibitors.

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## Sick Animals During the Exhibition

Sick animals should be immediately removed from the exhibition, moved to the designated isolation area, and returned home as soon as possible.

- Interaction with any sick animals should be limited to only people caring for the animal.
- Dedicated (not worn around other animals) personal protective equipment (PPE) such as disposable gloves, face mask, eye protection or face shield, gown/coveralls, boots or boot covers, should be worn by people caring for sick animals and should be discarded or laundered and disinfected before re-use.
- No treatment supplies, feed or water, portable milking equipment, or grooming supplies should be shared between sick animals and healthy animals.
- Always care for your healthy animals first and sick animals last to prevent the spread of diseases.
- Additional precautions such as hand washing before putting on and taking off PPE and changing clothes and boots should be taken by those caring for sick animals to minimize the opportunity for disease transmission to other cattle or people.
- If your animals have signs of HPAI, consult with the fair veterinarian and report to [State Animal Health Authorities](#).

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## After the Exhibition

- Isolate and observe animals daily for illness after returning home and before allowing contact with other animals.
  - Isolation should take place for 30 days.
  - Do not share equipment between show cattle and other animals at home.
  - Take care of isolation group last.
- Discuss the need to test animals returning from exhibition or fair for influenza A with your veterinarian.
- Consult a health care provider and your state or local public health department if exhibitors or family members develop influenza-like illness.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment brought to the event.