



USDA UPDATE: INTERSTATE MOVEMENT GUIDANCE WHAT IT MEANS FOR CALIFORNIA

USDA APHIS UPDATE- EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

Lactating dairy cattle moving interstate from states with National Milk Testing Strategy [Unaffected State Status](#) are no longer required to test for H5N1 prior to movement.

View the [USDA update announcement](#).

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR CALIFORNIA

Even though no dairies are currently under quarantine for bird flu, California has not met the negative testing requirements necessary to be classified as an unaffected state. Thus, **California remains an Affected State** and is still at NMTS Stage 3. As such, this USDA guidance change does not currently apply to California dairy animals and pre-movement testing requirements remain in effect for cattle leaving California in accordance with the [April 2024 Federal Order](#).

MOVING CATTLE OUT OF CALIFORNIA

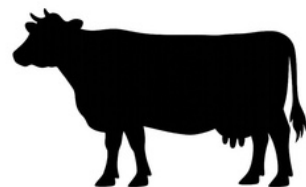
- California is an Affected State.
- Testing requirements for interstate movement of dairy animals have not changed.
- Pre-movement H5N1 testing is still required for all lactating dairy cattle moving interstate.

MOVING CATTLE INTO CALIFORNIA

- **From an NMTS Unaffected State:** Pre-movement testing no longer required.
- **From an NMTS Affected or Provisionally Approved State:** Pre-movement testing still required in accordance with the [April 2024 Federal Order](#).

KEY MESSAGE:

The recent USDA rule change does not apply to California. California is still classified as an Affected State at NMTS Stage 3, so pre-movement H5N1 testing requirements for cattle leaving California have not changed.





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WHAT IT MEANS FOR CALIFORNIA

HOW CALIFORNIA ACHIEVES UNAFFECTED STATUS



SURVEILLANCE & TESTING

- CDFA will continue statewide milk testing
- Testing data will guide next steps toward advancing California’s National Milk Testing Strategy status.

BIOSECURITY REMINDERS:

- Maintain **enhanced biosecurity practices** on your operation.
- **Clean and disinfect equipment and vehicles.**
- Limit visitors and unnecessary traffic.
- **Isolate animals showing clinical signs.**
- Continue precautions when introducing new animals.

REPORTING & CONTACT:

If you observe signs consistent with H5N1, **contact your CDFA Animal Health Branch District Office immediately.** Early reporting supports rapid response and helps protect the broader livestock industry.



RESOURCES:



[CDFA H5N1 IN LIVESTOCK](#)



[NATIONAL MILK TESTING STRATEGY](#)



[FEDERAL ORDER](#)

[Animal Health and Food Safety Services](#) [Animal Health Branch](#)

- Headquarters - (916) 900-5002
- Redding District - (530) 225-2140
- Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
- Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
- Ontario District - (909) 947-5932