

## Update on Herd-level Dairy Cattle Disease Outbreak in Texas

California Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health Branch (CDFA, AHB) is currently monitoring the ongoing and developing situation that has been reported on various dairy farms in Texas. We understand the concern that this situation undoubtedly has caused across all sectors of the cattle industry and wished to disseminate current information with respect to the current outbreak and provide some resources to all stakeholders.

### Currently Known Status:

There does appear to be a disease syndrome affecting TX dairy cattle that is having significant health and economic impacts. There are still no known cases that have been identified outside of this initial affected region in Texas.

**Clinical signs** in affected cattle include:

- Decreased herd level milk production.
- Acute sudden drops in individual milk production with many cows being “dried off”.
- Decrease in feed consumption with a simultaneous drop in rumen motility.
- Abnormal tacky or loose feces, and some fever.

Impacted herds have reported older cows in peak to mid-lactation appear to be more likely to be severely impacted than younger cows and fresh cows or heifers. Dry cows and heifers do not appear to be affected currently. In addition, some herds have reported respiratory signs as a secondary consequence.

All known/likely reportable diseases have been ruled out at this time following initial diagnostics. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), state and regional diagnostic laboratories, veterinarians, and other partners are working closely to coordinate efforts to develop a case definition, monitoring plan, and further recommendations as diagnostic results become available.

At this time, enhanced biosecurity measures have been recommended and enacted in the affected areas of Texas and is the best prevention that can be done anywhere, including on dairies here in California. The CDFA website for the Secure Food Supply Program ([CDFA - AHFSS - AHB - Secure Food Supply Program \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/secure-food-supply-program)) has resources on dairy premises biosecurity available, as well as the resources that can be found on the FARM/NMPF Everyday Biosecurity manual ([Biosecurity - National Dairy FARM Program](https://www.farmnmpf.org/biosecurity)) and the Secure Milk Supply website ([Secure Milk Supply Plan](https://www.securemilk.com)).

At this time, CDFA is not stopping/restricting animal movement from TX, although at least one other state has; but would like to highlight to all stakeholders that legally, only healthy cattle (with a certificate of veterinary inspection indicating such) can enter California, even without additional quarantine requirements being imposed.

CDFA would like to urge that should you observe clinical signs of concern in cattle on your premises; please feel free to reach out to any of our district offices. Contact information for each of [CDFA's district offices](#) may be found on our website resources tab.

CDFA will continue to provide as much information as it becomes available in this ongoing situation in TX along with any associated recommendations for movement or biosecurity as pertinent.