



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Dairy Cattle

September 1, 2026

Federal and state veterinary and public health agencies are continuing to detect Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1), within dairy cattle herds in California, Idaho, Texas, and Utah. These states are considered affected states. The herds all exhibited a similar clinical syndrome, Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome, which has been classified as an emerging disease. Please visit the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) webpage for the ***latest information and map of Affected States*** for this disease [[HPAI Confirmed Cases in Livestock | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#)].

The clinical signs associated with this syndrome include decreased milk production; reduced appetite; thickened, discolored milk; lethargy; fever; and/or dehydration. This syndrome is a Reportable Disease in Florida under Chapter 5C-20, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Any Florida cattle testing positive for Influenza A or showing clinical signs consistent with this syndrome must be reported immediately to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) at: www.FDACS.gov/RAD.

By Federal Order effective April 29, 2024, all lactating dairy cattle moving interstate are required to have a negative Influenza A test within 7 days of movement, unless exempt. Those lactating dairy cattle exempt from testing are, cattle moving directly to slaughter, cattle originating from a USDA monitored unaffected herd and cattle moving from an unaffected state as determined by the USDA state status classification.

Effective immediately:

- No cattle exposed to or infected with Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome may be imported into Florida.
- All dairy cattle must comply with the Federal Order, APHIS Requirements and additionally Florida Emergency Rule [5CER26-13](#). For full Emergency Rule text, see below.
- Lactation status must be listed on Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for dairy cattle.
- All lactating dairy cattle must be accompanied by an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) that includes:
 - Negative Influenza A test within 7 days of entry.
 - Certification of lactation status.
 - Statement that the cattle are both free from, and have not been exposed to, a known contagious and infectious disease.
 - All non-lactating dairy cattle originating from a state with a suspected or confirmed case of Bovine Associated Influenza A Syndrome must have an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection within 10 days of importation.
 - Dairy cattle moving directly to slaughter, from a monitored unaffected herd or from state with unaffected state status are exempt from the testing requirements.
 - Dairy cattle originating from a herd which has tested positive for HPAI within the previous 120 days are prohibited from importation into Florida.



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5CER26-13 Temporary Restrictions on the Importation of Dairy Cattle.

(1) Except where more stringent requirements are adopted herein, dairy cattle being imported into Florida must meet the testing and movement requirements referenced in Chapter 5C-3, Florida Administrative Code, as well as the *Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Livestock (4/24/24)* (“Federal Order 4/24/24”), the *Federal Order Requiring Additional Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Livestock and Milk (12/06/24)* (“Federal Order 12/06/24”), and the *APHIS Requirements and Recommendations for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 Virus in Livestock For State Animal Health Officials, Accredited Veterinarians and Producers (1/21/26)* (“APHIS Requirements”), all of which are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference. The *Case Definition for Avian Influenza (AI) (August 2024)* cited within the APHIS Requirements and the *Herd Status Definitions set forth in USDA HPAI Dairy Herd Status Program, APHIS-24-029*, February 2025, are also hereby adopted and incorporated by reference. These documents are available for review at <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry>.

(2) In addition to complying with the requirements set forth in Federal Order 4/24/24, Federal Order 12/06/24, and APHIS Requirements, the following documentation is required when importing dairy cattle into Florida:

(a) Dairy cattle originating from a state that is not designated by the USDA as having HPAI Unaffected State Status pursuant to the APHIS Requirements must meet the Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) requirements set forth in Rule 5C-3.002, F.A.C. The OCVI must also include the following information:

1. The lactation status of the animal (lactating or non-lactating).



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2. For lactating dairy cattle required to test negative for Bovine Associated Influenza A (H5N1) pursuant to subsection (1), the negative test results, laboratory name, accession number, and test date. Notwithstanding paragraph 5C-3.002(1)(c), F.A.C., the OCVI and test date must be no more than 7 days prior to importation into Florida. Lactating dairy cattle originating from a Voluntary HPAI Monitored Unaffected Herd are not required to be individually tested, but the OCVI must include a statement that the herd's status is "Voluntary HPAI Monitored Unaffected Herd" and must provide the date of the last HPAI test.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 5C-3.002(1)(c), F.A.C., the OCVI issue date for non-lactating dairy cattle must be no more than 10 days prior to importation into Florida.

(b) Dairy cattle originating from a herd which has tested positive for HPAI within the previous 120 days are prohibited from importation into Florida.

(3) Exception for Movement to Slaughter. Notwithstanding the requirements set forth within this rule, lactating dairy cattle being imported into Florida and moving directly to slaughter are not required to be tested for the H5N1 Influenza virus if they are accompanied by a lawful OCVI or an Owner-Shipper Statement that complies with the requirements set forth in Chapter 5C-3, F.A.C., and was issued within 10 days of entry into Florida.

Rulemaking Authority 570.07(21), (23), 585.002(4), 585.08(2)(a), 585.145(1), (2) FS. Law

Implemented 585.08(1), 585.145 FS. History—New 9-1-26.

For the latest information regarding the requirements for interstate movement of livestock, please check the website www.InterstateLivestock.com or contact the state animal health official in the state of destination [[State Veterinarians \(usaha.org\)](http://StateVeterinarians.usaha.org)]. Interstate movement regulations are changing rapidly and should be verified prior to each movement.



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Farm worker biosecurity is a critical part of the overall protection of our Florida animal industries. Please ensure all employees and visitors entering your farm are practicing proper biosecurity procedures. Biosecurity recommendations and frequently answered questions (English & Spanish) are located at:

- [APHIS Updates Interstate Movement Guidance for Dairy Cattle](#)
- [Hpai-dairy-faqs.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)
- [Hpai-dairy-faqs APHIS 20240409 ES \(usda.gov\)](#)
- [Recommendations-workers-hpai-livestock.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)
- [Recommendations-hpai-livestock.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)
- [Bird Flu | Bird Flu | CDC](#)
- [Influenza aviar | Influenza aviar | CDC](#)

Farm Biosecurity Resources are available at:

- [Dairy-Cattle-Biosecurity-Recommendations-Influenza-V1.1.pdf \(nmpf.org\)](#)
- [Dairy-Cattle-Biosecurity-Recommendations-Influenza-V1-Sp.pdf \(nmpf.org\)](#)
- [The Secure Milk Supply Plan](#) offers comprehensive dairy biosecurity practices.
- [Biosecurity - National Dairy FARM Program](#)
- [HPAI Resources - NMPF](#)
- [Biosecurity for cattle operations | UMN Extension](#)
- [Biosecurity Practices for Dairy Operations \(tamu.edu\)](#)
- [Farm Biosecurity - CFSPH \(iastate.edu\)](#)

Although human cases have been observed during this recent event, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to human health to be low. In addition, the USDA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), consider the U.S. commercial milk supply to be safe because products are pasteurized before entering the market. The FDA does continue to stress that milk and milk products should be pasteurized, and the consumption of raw milk has numerous health risks.

- CDC Information: [H5N1 Bird Flu: Current Situation Summary | Avian Influenza \(Flu\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- FDA Information:
 - [Cat and Dog Food Manufacturers Required to Consider H5N1 in Food Safety Plans | FDA](#)
 - [The Dangers of Raw Milk: Unpasteurized Milk Can Pose a Serious Health Risk | FDA](#)
 - [Investigation of Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\) Virus in Dairy Cattle | FDA](#)