

## Exhibition Recommendations to Prevent H5N1 in Livestock

This document serves as guidance for exhibition managers to prevent the introduction and spread of H5N1 or other pathogens among livestock including poultry. These recommendations are subject to change based on emerging cases and regulatory guidance.

### Before the Exhibition

- Lactating dairy cows coming from out of state are required by [Federal Order](#) to test negative for influenza and be sampled no more than 7 days prior to import. They can travel back to their home herd on the same negative test result if the exhibition does not exceed 10 days.
  - Although lactating dairy cows attending from within Minnesota are not required to be tested it is strongly encouraged. The cost of testing will be covered at the [UMN Veterinary Diagnostic Lab](#). Non-lactating cattle can also be tested.
- Plan ahead for where each species will be housed and avoid housing different species in adjacent pens or separate herds by leaving an empty pen in between.
  - *Do not house cattle and poultry in the same building! If possible, exhibit those species on different days of the exhibition with cleaning and disinfection between.*
- Coordinate with your Official Veterinarian for an organized check-in for livestock and poultry.
  - When possible, block different hours for different species.
- Communicate Official ID, import, and testing requirements to exhibitors at registration and provide [Biosecurity Recommendations](#). Gather exhibitor contact information with each animal registration (phone, email) so exhibitors can be easily reached if needed.
- Develop written biosecurity and emergency response procedures for the event and post biosecurity information at locations you plan to hold livestock.
- Encourage exhibitors to stay home if they are ill.
- Designate an isolation area for sick animals away from other animals and public display.
- Contact your Board of Animal Health Field Inspector with questions.

### During the Exhibition

- Post and provide exhibitors with [Biosecurity Recommendations](#) as they arrive.
- Have tagging equipment available for the Official Veterinarian in the event an animal is not appropriately identified on arrival.
- Have frequent [handwashing stations with signage](#) in areas with animals.
- [Post signage](#) discouraging eating or drinking in designated animal areas.
- Limit availability of shared equipment and clean and disinfect it frequently.

- Limit animal contact to the general public. For example, no interactive milking exhibits.
- Maximize physical separation of animals and utilize barriers like tarps to prevent nose-to-nose contact of animals in adjacent stalls.
- Limit comingling of animals from different herds and of different species. Have designated stalls and organized times for animals moving to exhibition areas.
- Ensure adequate ventilation, temperature, and water access in barns to reduce animal stress.
- Dispose of raw milk safely
  - Exhibitors should wash hands after milking.
  - Prohibit dumping milk anywhere outside the designated location.
  - Ship all milk collected for pasteurization or pasteurize on-site using a calf milk pasteurizer or similar heat treatment.
  - If pasteurization isn't an option, waste milk should be disposed of in a contained manure pit and stored for 30 days prior to spreading on fields.
- Contact the Official Veterinarian immediately if animals show signs of illness. Work with exhibitors to ensure sick animals are isolated or removed as ordered by the veterinarian.
  - Signs of influenza in dairy cows may include decreased milk production, appetite, and rumen motility, thick or discolored milk, lethargy, fever, and/or dehydration.
- Have gloves, goggles, and masks available for those who may want to utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling livestock. PPE can [be requested through the Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\)](#).

## After the Exhibition

- Follow a written cleaning and disinfection protocol in areas where animals are housed and exhibited between groups and after the exhibition ends.
- Hold a meeting to summarize what went well and what can be improved for future events.
- Organize and store required animal records for 5 years.
- Encourage exhibitors to consult a health care provider or the MDH if they or family members develop influenza-like illness (e.g., fever or chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, tiredness, conjunctivitis, and/or vomiting and diarrhea).

## Suspect Cases

- If the Official Veterinarian is concerned an animal may have influenza, they will contact the Board and/or collect samples.
- Lactating dairy cows with signs of infectious disease should be removed from the premises immediately.
  - When moving sick animals, do not let them contact other animals.
  - Clean any feces, urine, and milk from the animal.
  - Clean and disinfect the pen and any equipment that may have contacted the animal.
- If livestock tests positive for influenza that is or was at an exhibition, the Board will conduct an investigation to determine if there were other animals potentially exposed.

## Additional Resources

- [USDA Exhibition Recommendations](#)
- [Free course from MDH for safe animal exhibits](#)
- [USDA HPAI in Livestock Website](#)
- [EPA Registered Antimicrobials effective against HPAI](#)
- UMASH Handwashing Signage: [UMASH Handwashing Poster](#)
- BAH exhibition phone line and email: 651-201-6826 [Livestock.Concentration.BAH@state.mn.us](mailto:Livestock.Concentration.BAH@state.mn.us)
- MDH phone line: 651-201-5414. Ask to speak with the Zoonotic Disease Unit