



Biosecurity Practices to Minimize Risk of Spreading Bovine Influenza A Virus For Exhibit Organizers

Practicing good biosecurity can greatly reduce the risk of spread of animal diseases especially during fair season. While not yet confirmed in California, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus has been detected in dairy cows in at least 11 other states this Spring. Although this strain of HPAI is deadly in domestic poultry species, fortunately, it is less severe in cattle, and is not considered a significant human health risk. But, in light of the growing number of cases in other states suggesting continuing spread of HPAI in dairy cattle, here are recommendations for exhibit organizers in California:

Before the Exhibition

- Because of their higher risk of transmission of HPAI to other animals, it is **recommended that all lactating dairy cattle be tested for HPAI within 7 days before arriving at the fair** following these guidelines: [Surveillance Testing of Dairy Cattle Protocol - For Producers](#).

Follow enhanced biosecurity practices for all dairy cattle at the fair like the following:

- Collect contact information from all exhibitors in the event of sudden procedural changes or incidents associated with the exhibition.
 - Document cattle farm origins and individual cow identification.
- Ensure handwashing stations with running water, soap, and paper towels are available near the exit of the exhibition area.
- Establish an official show veterinarian for the pre-entry inspection of each dairy animal (physical exam, temperature) and to oversee management of sick animals at the fair.
- Work with state animal health officials to understand interstate and intrastate testing and movement requirements for exhibition cattle and communicate these requirements to exhibitors.
 - Interstate movements of lactating dairy cattle must follow [Federal Requirements](#) and CA requirements



Continued

- Develop and share a biosecurity plan for the event with exhibitors. The plan should:
 - Prevent co-mingling of cows from different herds, farms, and clubs to the best of your facility's abilities.
 - Spaces should be designed to limit nose to nose contact with a physical barrier (such as tarps).
 - Avoid sharing of feed or water troughs and buckets.
 - Keep poultry exhibits temporally and spatially separated from dairy cows.
 - Communicate exhibition milking expectations.
 - Reduce non-essential personnel in milking areas. It is recommended to pasteurize all waste milk before disposal.
 - Milk should be discarded according to state and local regulations and NOT sold or fed to other animals nor for human consumption.
 - Shared milking parlor equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between cows.
 - Establish a protocol to immediately isolate sick cows.
 - Fair veterinarian to examine sick animals, initiate testing and notify CDFA Animal Health Official.
 - Designate an isolation area far from other cattle, other susceptible species, and the public with plans for milk discard.
 - Isolation areas should not share confined air space, panels/fence lines, feeding, or watering space with other animals. Consider an assigned milking unit solely for isolation use.
 - Limit direct contact with the general public for example, no "milk a cow" exhibits.

During the Exhibition

- Communicate with exhibitors at the start of the exhibition to:
 - Review animal disease control measures to be used during the exhibition, including the daily monitoring of the animals during the show and biosecurity measures.
 - Recommend exhibitors of different species should avoid entering other animal exhibits.
 - Provide specific actions that may be required if a cow becomes sick at the show (per the pre-event testing and movement requirements established with CA Animal Health Officials).
 - Become familiar with the signs of influenza in cattle: decreased milk production, reduced appetite, thickened and/or discolored milk, lethargy, fever, and droopy ears.
 - Notify your show veterinarian immediately and based on physical exam findings, contact CDFA District.
 - Sick animals should be moved into designated isolation area immediately and samples collected and submitted to the nearest CAHFS laboratory testing.
- Clean and disinfect equipment frequently.
 - 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
 - Purell® - hand sanitizer
- Ensure adequate ventilation and temperature controls are in place.
- Post signs near the exhibition area exits that instruct visitors to wash their hands when leaving the animal area.



After the Exhibition

- Clean and disinfect exhibition areas.
 - Use approved disinfectants that are **safe** for human and animal contact.
 - Hold a debrief meeting to discuss what went well and improvements for next year.

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For more information, please visit our website at:

www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/HPAI.html

**Disclaimer: Trade names used in this publication do not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the products, nor criticize similar products not mentioned. CDFA bears no responsibility for liability resulting from the use of the products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your cows; however, they will reduce risks.*