



April 30, 2024

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Detections in Livestock

This fact sheet contains important information from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture regarding HPAI in livestock

USDA APHIS Issues Federal Order to Limit Spread

On April 24, 2024, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), issued a Federal Order to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). HPAI is a contagious viral disease of domestic poultry and wild birds. HPAI is deadly to domestic poultry and can wipe out entire flocks within a matter of days. HPAI is a threat to the poultry industry, animal health, human health, trade, and the economy worldwide. In the US, HPAI has now been detected in dairy cattle. The Federal Order will go into effect April 29, 2024.

What does the Federal Order require?

1. Mandatory testing for dairy cattle moving across state lines (interstate movement)

- All lactating dairy cattle moving out of North Carolina must have a negative test for Influenza A virus from an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network Laboratory (NAHLN) and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) or other official movement documentation approved by the origin and recipient State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs). Rollins Lab in Raleigh, NC is a NAHLN laboratory.
 - Cattle moving directly to slaughter are exempt from the Influenza A testing requirement.
- Owners of herds in which dairy cattle test positive will be required to provide epidemiological information, including animal movement tracing.

2. Mandatory Reporting

- Laboratories and state veterinarians must report positive Influenza A results in livestock to USDA.

Do beef or non-lactating dairy cows have to be tested?

- NO: Beef cattle and non-lactating dairy cattle (heifers, dry cows, and bull calves) are not currently subjected to the Federal Order.

What do lactating dairy cows need to move out of NC?

- Negative Influenza A milk sample results. The results are valid for 7 days from the date of collection.
- An ICVI or SAHO-approved official documentation with individual official animal identification.
- No positive Influenza A tests from any lactating cattle on the premises in the past 30 days.

What does a lactating dairy cow infected with Influenza A virus look like?

- The USDA clinical case definition includes the following: infected cattle may be asymptomatic or symptomatic. Virus is predominantly found in milk and mammary tissue. Clinical signs may include: decreased feed consumption and rumination; respiratory signs including clear nasal discharge; acute drop in milk production; abnormal tacky or loose feces, lethargy, dehydration, and fever. Severely affected cattle may have thicker, concentrated, colostrum-like milk or produce no milk at all.

Can lactating dairy cows affected with HPAI move directly to slaughter?

- NO: Clinical lactating dairy cattle are ineligible for interstate movement or movement to slaughter.

What about lactating dairy cows not affected with HPAI moving directly to slaughter?

- Movement from a NC premise (farm or market) across state lines directly to a packer requires an ICVI or SAHO-approved official documentation, but does not require a negative Influenza A test.
- Cattle may move to a NC market from a NC farm without a CVI or negative influenza A test.

For more information please visit the USDA APHIS website on *HPAI Detections in Livestock* and the source for this factsheet at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock>