



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

MIKE STRAIN, DVM *Commissioner*

ORDER OF THE STATE VETERINARIAN

RESCISSION OF INTRASTATE HPAI TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LACTATING DAIRY CATTLE FOR FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

I. ORDER

The Order of the State Veterinarian entitled “Intrastate HPAI Testing Requirements for Lactating Dairy Cows for Fairs and Exhibitions,” dated August 9, 2024, is hereby rescinded and all requirements set forth in that order are no longer in place. Specifically,

1. Effective immediately, lactating dairy cattle are no longer required to be tested for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) prior to admission to fairs, livestock shows, exhibitions, and breeders’ association sales.

All other Orders of the State Veterinarian regarding HPAI remain in effect at this time, including restrictions on the movement of HPAI-positive dairy cattle into Louisiana.

II. PURPOSE

HPAI is a highly contagious and often fatal foreign animal disease affecting domestic poultry and other wild birds which is now an emerging disease of concern in Dairy Cattle and other mammals.

On April 24, 2024, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) implemented mandatory testing of lactating dairy cattle moving across state lines, in accordance with the “Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Livestock.”

On August 9, 2024, the State Veterinarian issued an Order entitled “Intrastate HPAI Testing Requirements for Lactating Dairy Cattle for Fairs and Exhibitions.” That order required that “(a)ll lactating dairy cattle must be tested for HPAI and show negative test results within seven days prior to admission to all fairs, livestock shows, exhibitions, and breeders’ sales within Louisiana.

Subsequently, in February, March, April, May, June, July, and August 2025, the Louisiana Office of Public Health, Milk and Dairy Unit (OPHMDU) sampled all silos, representing 45 dairies in Louisiana to complete six months of negative testing for HPAI and to comply with National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS). All samples were sent to the National Veterinary Service Laboratory (NVSL) for testing and all were negative for HPAI.

The State of Louisiana has met all the requirements through our statewide surveillance program to determine state status through NMTS and currently holds a NMTS status of Stage 4, unaffected with HPAI.

For these reasons, the requirements for HPAI testing of lactating dairy cattle for fairs, livestock shows, exhibitions, and breeders’ association sales are no longer warranted.

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III. AUTHORITY

Louisiana Revised Statutes 3:2094(A)(1) and (4).

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further notice. For more information, call (225) 922-3980.

SO ORDERED,

Docusigned by:

Daniel Myrick

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Dr. Daniel Myrick, D.V.M.
State Veterinarian

Dated: 9/15/2025