



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY  
MIKE STRAIN DVM  
COMMISSIONER



## ORDER OF THE STATE VETERINARIAN

### INTRASTATE HPAI TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LACTATING DAIRY CATTLE FOR FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

#### I. ORDER

1. All lactating dairy cattle must be tested for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and show negative results within seven (7) days prior to admission to all fairs, livestock shows, exhibitions and breeders' association sales.
2. The milk samples must be collected by a USDA accredited veterinarian.
3. Testing must be conducted by a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory.
  - a. LSU Diagnostics (Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostics Lab) is a NALHN lab. <https://www.lsu.edu/vetmed/laddl/>.
4. Each individual animal must be sampled, tested, and have negative results for HPAI.
5. The date of sample collection must be no more than seven (7) days prior to the arrival at the fair.
6. In lieu of NAHLN test results in hand, a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian including individual official animal identification and negative HPAI results for samples collected from all lactating dairy cows within seven (7) days of arrival at the event, will also be acceptable for intrastate animals.
7. Failure to abide by these import requirements may result in a civil penalty of five thousand dollars imposed in accordance with La. R.S. 3:2093 and 2137. Additionally, violation of this order may constitute a crime which, upon conviction, shall result in a fine of not less than five thousand, nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars or imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not less than one year, nor more than ten years, or both, pursuant to La. R.S. 3:2137.

#### II. PURPOSE

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is aware of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detections in Dairy Cattle beginning in Texas in February, 2024. 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. HPAI in Dairy Cattle is presumed to spread from direct introduction by birds (wild and domestic) into a Dairy cow's environment, and is also presumed to be spread laterally from farm to farm and cow to cow, although the exact mechanism of transmission is not completely understood at this time. HPAI in Dairy Cattle is associated with a condition causing (1) decreased appetite, (2) decreased lactation, (3) thickened or colostrum-like milk, as well as other variable clinical signs. Import regulations and disease surveillance are therefore imperative to the health and safety of the state's Dairy Cattle populations.

The safety of exhibitors and their animals is a primary concern. These proactive measures are being implemented to reduce the risk of spreading HPAI and to prevent the introduction of HPAI into Louisiana's dairy cattle populations. This determination is based on epidemiological evaluation of the current disease risks that additional requirements are needed to prevent the introduction and spread of HPAI in Louisiana.

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*Order of the State Veterinarian  
HPAI in Dairy Cattle  
April 5, 2024*

As of the date of this order, HPAI in Dairy Cattle has been confirmed in 13 states, including Texas, Kansas, New Mexico, Idaho, Michigan, Ohio, South Dakota, North Carolina, Colorado, Minnesota, Wyoming, Iowa, and Oklahoma.


**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,**

  
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Dr. Brent Robbins, D.V.M.  
State Veterinarian

Dated: 8/9/24