

Healthy Lactating Dairy Cattle Testing Protocol for use in Pre-Movement or Surveillance FOR PRODUCERS

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (HPAI) H5N1 virus is an emerging disease in cattle which continues to be an evolving situation as more information becomes available. The mode of introduction into a herd may be via wild birds or new additions of cattle to the herd. Surveillance for HPAI in the dairy herd may provide for early detection and containment of the disease should it occur in California. **The following guidance is specifically for surveillance in healthy dairy herds with no clinical signs of disease.**

Important Points:

- ✓ Producers with cattle showing clinical signs of HPAI need to contact their local Animal Health Branch District office for further information with respect to the clinical animal testing protocol.
- ✓ Lactating dairy cattle from herds that have tested positive for Influenza A are not eligible for interstate movement for thirty (30) days from the most recent collection of any sample that tests positive from any individual animal in the herd. Re-testing may occur after this 30-day period.
- ✓ **Lactating dairy cattle with clinical signs consistent with HPAI in dairy cattle are ineligible for interstate movement as per 9 C.F.R. 71.3(b).**
- ✓ If pre-movement or surveillance testing is positive, the dairy/herd veterinarian will be contacted by a CDFA AHB or USDA veterinarian to initiate a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) investigation.

Sampling frequency:

- ✓ **Surveillance of healthy herds (freedom from disease monitoring):** Once per week for first 4 weeks then every other week thereafter (may be satisfied by pre-movement testing; dependent upon timing of testing strategies)
- ✓ **Pre-movement Testing (for interstate movement):**
 - All lactating dairy cattle moving interstate require:
 - Official individual identification
 - Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)
 - Matrix-A negative HPAI test from a NAHLN lab, except when moving direct to slaughter
 - Animals must be tested within 7 days of movement
 - Costs for testing will be covered by USDA; owner is responsible for sampling and shipping costs

Prior to sample collection:

- ✓ Dairy/herd vet obtains a premises ID (if the dairy does not have one, or does not know the number) by calling the local CDFA Animal Health Branch office or completing the [online form](#). **Premises ID is required on the laboratory submission form.**
- ✓ Dairy/herd vet must ensure proper sampling supplies on-hand:
 - For milk collection: screw-top lid is preferred. Other options when in a bind are:
 - 10ml red top tubes.
 - 15ml sterile conical tubes
 - Please do **not** use 50ml snap cap vials because they leak in transit.
 - Sample submission form:
 - The [HPAI in Dairy Cattle submission form](#) can be found on the CAHFS and CDFA websites

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Milk sample collection:

- ✓ The sample may be collected by an accredited veterinarian, a sample collector approved by a state animal health official, or a designated individual at a farm that was trained to collect samples.
- ✓ **Sample Size for Surveillance of Healthy Herds (freedom from disease monitoring):**
 - See Table below for required sample size

Milking Herd Size	Sample Size Ongoing Surveillance
1,000 head or less	33
Greater than 1,000 head	34

- ✓ Submit samples per premises sampled; do not pool samples from different dairies/premises owned by same producer.
- ✓ Dairy Cattle should be sampled in order of the following priority:
 - Cows with clinical signs consistent with HPAI (H5N1)
 - Cows in Hospital Pen
 - For dairies with activity monitors: cows with health alert/event on daily activity monitor
 - Cows 30 – 150 DIM
 - All other cows in the herd not mentioned above
- ✓ **Pre-movement Testing (interstate movement):**
 - For groups/lots of 30 or fewer animals moving interstate: all animals must be tested.
 - For groups/lots of more than 30 animals moving interstate: representative samples from 30 animals total from the lot must be tested.

Individual cow sampling protocol:

- ✓ Each functional quarter needs to be sampled.
- ✓ Milk from all functional quarters should be pooled in the same tube.
- ✓ Wash and disinfect teats before sampling
- ✓ Collect a total of 3-10ml of milk into a sterile, clean vial or tube of 10ml or larger.
- ✓ Close collection tube and label in the numerical order of sampling
- ✓ Scan/input animal ID's into Excel spreadsheet in the order of sampling along with date of sampling.

Shipping:

- ✓ Prior to shipping:
 - Select "Surveillance" on submission form if testing for freedom of disease monitoring
 - Select "Pre-Movement" on submission form if testing for interstate movement
 - Scan or take a picture of the lab submission form
 - Email Excel spreadsheet of animal ID's and a copy of the lab submission form (two separate documents) along with the tracking number to hpai.labcoordinator@cdfa.ca.gov
- ✓ Put each tube into a whirlpack bag and put them in shipping container. Do not pack the shipping container too tight as tubes can unscrew themselves by rubbing.
- ✓ Maintain cold chain for all samples.
- ✓ Ship on wet ice to the CAHFS-Davis lab:

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CAHFS, Davis
University of California, Davis
620 W. Health Sciences Dr.
Davis, CA 95616

NOTE: CAHFS – Davis is the only lab approved to conduct surveillance for HPAI in California

- ✓ Samples should never be stored in the freezer portion (-20C) of a standard refrigerator/freezer unit. Rather store milk in the refrigerator (4C) until shipping

If testing is negative:

- ✓ Results will be sent to sample submitter
- ✓ Movement can proceed as planned

If testing is positive:

- ✓ Results will be sent to sample submitter
- ✓ VIC/VMO contacts dairy and initiates CA Response to HPAI in Cattle Protocol.
- ✓ Herd will be placed under quarantine for a minimum of 30 days.