



State of New Jersey

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MEMO

To: Fair and Show Organizers, Dairy Cattle Producers, Veterinarians
From: Amar Patil, DVM, MVSc, PhD Dipl. ACVM, Director, Division of Animal Health/State Veterinarian
Date: May 6, 2026

RE: Update to Interstate Movement of Lactating Dairy Cattle for 2026 NJ Fair/Show Season

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently lifted Influenza A (HPAI, H5N1) interstate testing requirements for lactating dairy cattle originating from “Unaffected” states. States are categorized based on results from the USDA’s National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) program, which began in 2024. There are currently 42 states, including New Jersey, who achieved “Unaffected” status and are not subject to individual lactating dairy cattle milk testing requirements prior to interstate movement. For a map and information on current state statuses, visit [USDA's National Milk Testing Strategy Website \(www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock/nmts\)](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock/nmts)

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) released the 2026 Fair and Show Animal Health Regulations, Recommendations, and Forms document prior to USDA’s update of testing requirements. To reflect the most current conditions for interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle into New Jersey, the following requirements apply:

Imported Cattle Attending a New Jersey Fair/Show:

- Lactating dairy cattle may move interstate without HPAI testing if the cattle originate from an “Unaffected” state as classified by the [USDA NMTS](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock/nmts) program.
- Lactating dairy cattle from “Affected” or “Provisionally Unaffected” states classified by the [USDA NMTS](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock/nmts) program must be negative to an official HPAI test within 7 days prior to movement. The date and test results must be included on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).
- Lactating dairy cattle that have clinical signs of HPAI are ineligible for interstate movement, regardless of their originating state status.
- All other requirements for imported cattle attending a New Jersey fair/show, as outlined on pages 15-16 of the [2026 Fair and Show Animal Health Regulations, Recommendations, and Forms document](#), must be followed. This document can be accessed at

www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/2026%20FAIR%20AND%20SHOW%20ANIMAL%20HEALTH%20REGULATIONS.pdf

New Jersey Cattle Attending a New Jersey Fair/Show:

- New Jersey origin lactating dairy cattle are not required to receive a negative test for Influenza A virus.

Recommendations While Attending a Fair/Show:

- Practice excellent biosecurity.
- Do not allow sharing of any equipment, including communal milking equipment.
- Clean and disinfect frequently.
- Be vigilant for signs of sick animals and report any sick animals immediately.

As a reminder, livestock showing clinical signs consistent with Influenza A in cattle (decreased appetite, drop in milk production, thickened milk, abnormal feces, and fever) should be reported to a veterinarian and the NJDA Division of Animal Health (DAH) at 609-671-6400. There are currently no detections or suspect cases in New Jersey and producers are urged to reinforce good biosecurity practices on their farm.

Links and Additional Resources:

- USDA Updated Guidance on Interstate Movement of Lactating Dairy Cattle - www.aphis.usda.gov/news/program-update/aphis-updates-guidance-interstate-movement-lactating-dairy-cattle
- USDA H5N1 Influenza Resources and Guidance - www.aphis.usda.gov/h5n1-hpai
- 5 Tips for Biosecurity at Fairs (The Livestock Project) - www.cfsph.iastate.edu/thelivestockproject/biosecurity-at-the-fair-5-tips/
- Biosecurity and Fairs (Iowa State University) - www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/lhgenbiosecurity.pdf