

Attention Wisconsin Dairy Show Exhibitors –

WI DATCP will be continuing the required testing for all milking-age animals at Wisconsin fairs and shows in an effort to prevent the spread of the avian influenza (HPAI) (H5N1) in dairy cattle.

Please be aware that any lactating dairy cattle brought to a WHA show in 2025 (WI Dairy Showcase, District Shows, WI Summer Championship Show) will be required to present a copy of a negative test for Influenza A virus from an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory with samples collected no more than 7 days prior to movement to the fair or exhibition. This testing is available to producers at no cost through USDA APHIS at NAHLN laboratories. Producers may also apply for reimbursement of shipping and veterinary fees for collection of samples. This order requiring a negative Influenza A test prior to traveling to a show or exhibition will remain in effect until 60 days after the last detection of H5N1 in cattle herds in the United States.

Sample collection for testing must meet all of the following:

- (1) The sample type to be collected is milk or udder secretions from individual cows. Each quarter is sampled and combined into one sample for submission to the laboratory. Submissions must be between 3 to 10 milliliters per animal.
- (2) The sample must be collected by or under the supervision of a licensed and accredited veterinarian.
- (3) Sample collection and testing must take place no more than 7 days prior to movement to the fair or exhibition.

Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (WVDL) is where most of Wisconsin's samples go, there are other NAHLN laboratories. WVDL is advising to plan for a 72 hour turn around, although it is sometimes quicker than that. Submission instructions for veterinarians are on their website or they can be reached by phone 800-608-8387 or 608-262-5432.

Exhibitors from outside Wisconsin should work with their local vet to send the sample to the nearest accredited lab.

Please print two copies of your test results to bring to the show with your animal(s). Show staff will need a copy of test results for all lactating animals to keep on file and exhibitors should have a copy for travel home.

We will provide disinfectant in the milking parlors at the show for exhibitors to disinfect milking units between each cow and exhibitors are encouraged to bring their own teat dip cups to avoid cross-contamination.

While there are no reported cases of avian influenza in Wisconsin, we want to ensure that preventative measures are implemented. Each show will be expected to follow DATCP testing requirements for lactating animals and we encourage all exhibitors to follow standard biosecurity recommendations for shows.

More information on the HPAI (H5N1) testing requirements can be found here:

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AvianInfluenzaCattle.aspx

For current interstate movement requirements for cattle originating from outside Wisconsin, please visit the following website: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents2/Fair%20Rules%202025Final.pdf>