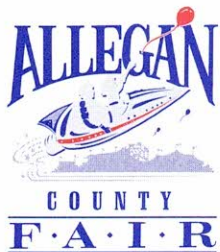


*"Dancing with the Steers"*



# 172nd ALLEGAN COUNTY FAIR

September 6th-14th, 2024

The Allegan County Agricultural Society

ORGANIZED 1852

INCORPORATED 1919

*Richard Day*  
President

*Jay Drozd*  
1st Vice President

*Harry Chestnut*  
2nd Vice President

*Aaron Hartman*  
Treasurer

*Irene Waanders*  
Secretary

*Saree Miller*  
Executive Director

July 12, 2024

Attention Exhibitors!!!

Please find enclosed the HPAI Risk Reduction Order of frequently asked questions from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The state is still experiencing avian influenza cases in dairy herds and it is unfortunate that the Allegan County Fair is now within the 60 day time zone. Lactating dairy cows and pregnant cows that are 2 months or less from their birthing date will not be allowed to show/be at the fair. Any cattle including heifers, feeder cattle, breeding stock bulls, or beef coming from a dairy premise must test negative within seven days of September 5<sup>th</sup> entry to the fairgrounds. The MDARD recommends any nasal swab samples or bulk tank samples be sent in by August 28<sup>th</sup> to receive testing by fair time. You MUST provide a copy of your negative test to your Superintendent upon your animals entry to the fairgrounds. DO NOT UNLOAD YOUR ANIMALS UNTIL YOU HAVE PROVIDED THIS COPY!

CATTLE FROM A NON-NEGATIVE HPAI HERD ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO SHOW!

Please read through the enclosed questionnaire. It will help you to know where you can get information for testing and what animals are allowed to attend the Allegan County Fair.

Sincerely,

Allegan County Fair Board &  
Saree Miller  
Executive Director  
Allegan County Fair



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING  
DIRECTOR

**HPAI Risk Reduction Order: June 26, 2024, Amendment  
Frequently Asked Questions**

Updated: July 5, 2024

- 1. Would heifers, feeder cattle, or beef cattle from a licensed dairy premises need a nasal swab test or have a test from the farm's bulk tank demonstrating negative detection of HPAI A(H5N1) in order to be exhibited?**

Yes. These animals would need to be tested.

- 2. Does the original order or the amended order prevent lactating beef breed cows from being exhibited?**

No, due to the risk profile for beef breeds, requirements for these animals were not included in the order. However, a lactating beef breed cow (or any beef cow) would need testing if it is moving to an exhibition directly from a licensed dairy premises.

- 3. Some dairy farms have heifers who are not currently housed on a licensed dairy premises or facility locations that often do not have lactating cows. Would a heifer in a case like this need to test?**

If the premises is connected to or affiliated with a licensed dairy premises, yes, either an animal nasal swab or a bulk tank test from the dairy is required. If the premises is not part of a licensed dairy farm, then no testing is needed.

- 4. What does "originating" from a licensed dairy premises mean when testing dairy breeds of cattle for exhibition?**

Public Act 466, the Animal Industry Act, defines "originate" as the direct movement of animals from a herd or flock of origin. Therefore, if an animal was moved off of a dairy farm months ago to be raised at a location without a licensed dairy premises, this testing would not be necessary. It only affects those cattle intended to move immediately from a licensed dairy premises directly to an exhibition.

**5. Who verifies that the proper testing has been completed for an animal?**

Each fair and exhibition should designate a staff member to request the testing documentation from exhibitors and verify the record as animals are checked in.

**6. The amended order stipulates to keep a list of all exhibitors. Is an example available?**

Yes. A sample form for this record has been provided on the [Resources for Exhibitions](#) website.

**7. The amended order stipulates to post biosecurity signage about handwashing and maintaining a safe distance from animals. Is an example available?**

Examples of biosecurity signs are available on MDARD's [Resources for Exhibitions](#) page. Some additional signs are also available on [MSU Extension's website](#).

**8. Can poultry now be exhibited in the state of Michigan?**

Yes, poultry can now be exhibited. If there is a new detection of HPAI A(H5N1) in poultry during fair season, the situation will be evaluated to determine the best route for protecting animal and human health.

**9. Can lactating dairy cattle and those in the last two months of pregnancy now be exhibited in Michigan?**

No. The pause put in place by the original HPAI Risk Reduction and Response Order still is in effect and will continue until 60 consecutive days pass without a new case of HPAI A(H5N1) reported in Michigan dairy cattle.

**10. If an animal at a fair develops signs of disease, can that animal immediately return home?**

Fair personnel have the authority to send animals home or isolate them away from the public and other animals until they are examined by a veterinarian. If an animal is sent home and the home premises has other animals of the same species present, the animal should be isolated, examined by a veterinarian, and provided proper treatment. As always, if a [reportable disease](#) is suspected, please report the situation to MDARD at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after-hours).



**11. Do all breeds of cattle need to be tested if leaving a licensed dairy premises and going directly to an exhibition?**

Yes. All breeds of cattle of any age must be tested.

**12. What if I have questions related to HPAI testing and sample collection?**

For questions related to sample collection and submission (especially nasal swab tests), please contact the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MSU VDL) at 517-353-1683 or visit their [website](#). You can also contact your veterinarian.

For bulk tank milk samples, MDARD is coordinating the collection and submission of these samples. Please call 800-292-3939 or your dairy inspector to discuss this option and arrange testing.

**13. How long must fairs and exhibitions retain copies of the list of exhibitors and the negative HPAI test results submitted by exhibitors?**

These records should be retained for 12 months.

**14. Is a premises identification number (PIN) needed for the HPAI A(H5N1) testing to be completed by MSU VDL?**

Yes, a PIN is required for testing. To register your premises or to request your existing PIN, call MDARD's Atlanta Field Office at 888-565-8626.

**15. Where can I go to learn more about HPAI A(H5N1) in Michigan?**

Please visit [michigan.gov/birdflu](http://michigan.gov/birdflu) to see the latest information on HPAI in the state, and if there are specific questions related to the amended order, please contact MDARD's Customer Service Center at 800-292-3939 or [MDA-Info@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDA-Info@Michigan.gov). Also, sign up for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's "[Avian Influenza](#)" listserv to receive updates.