

To: any exhibitor showing Dairy Cattle at Sandwich Fair 10/11-14, 2024

Fr: Claes Thelemarck, 4-H Livestock Superintendent and Will Dewitt, Sandwich Fair Livestock Superintendent

Re: Avian Influenza and Showing of Dairy Cows at Sandwich Fair

Da: August 1, 2024

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a very contagious disease often deadly to poultry and of significant concern for other farm animals including dairy cows. It is transmitted through the milk of lactating cows. Based on discussions with UNH Extension Dairy Specialists and the NH State Veterinarian the Sandwich Fair Board of Directors is recommending that exhibitors do not bring lactating cows to the fair this year.

This decision was based on the following recommendations provided by the NH State Veterinarian.

- NHDAMF discourages lactating cow shows this summer until we understand all the disease transmission risks. We do not know all of that at the moment.
- Unless and until infection is identified in a dairy in New Hampshire, NHDAMF will not be prohibiting lactating cow shows.
- All lactating dairy cattle coming from another state must be in compliance with both routine NH import regulations and the Federal Order (negative H5N1 milk test, CVI).
- DAMF encourages testing of all lactating dairy cattle, including those from New Hampshire, prior to entry into the fair.
- Animals can only move from their home farm (as listed on the CVI) to the NH fair on a negative H5N1 milk test and CVI, then return directly home. They cannot move to NH on the negative test if they were unloaded at another premises on the way to the NH show (e.g. a cow cannot be shown at 2 or more fairs on the same negative test).
- **Any fair considering a lactating cow show needs to contact our office to discuss other necessary planning details** – how is milking handled (biosecurity, equipment sharing, etc.); milk disposal questions; limiting visitor contact with lactating cattle; handwashing and hygiene; what happens if an animal gets sick and is found positive while at the show (at a minimum, **all lactating cattle would need to stay on site for at least 30 days** and all other dairy cattle would be quarantined pending approval from the destination state's state veterinarian to move home); other influenza-susceptible species that will be impacted by a finding; etc.

In addition, each farm will need to provide their own milking equipment and farms should not be sharing milking equipment.

For questions contact 4-H livestock superintendent claes.thelemarck@unh.edu.