



April 27, 2024

This week the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a federal order requiring the testing for and reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Livestock along with subsequent guidance.

Here is a link to their site containing all the information:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/.../hpa-detections/livestock>

This order and related guidance requires a negative Influenza A test result and a signed Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for any lactating dairy cows to move across state lines. At this time, lactating dairy cows are the only category affected by this rule, but USDA has indicated they may expand the rule if warranted by additional testing results or other scientific analysis.

Due to this order, effective immediately Equity Cooperative Livestock is not able to accept any lactating dairy cows from Illinois or Minnesota at our Wisconsin or Iowa markets without a negative Influenza A test result and a CVI. Please know we are working very hard to establish alternate marketing services for lactating dairy cows in these states.

Iowa producers can market your lactating dairy cows through our Waukon, Iowa, location with no test or CVI.

Wisconsin producers can market your lactating dairy cows through any of our Wisconsin market locations with no test or CVI.

Michigan Upper Peninsula producers can market your lactating dairy cows through the Menomonie, Michigan, collection point with no test or CVI.

Please keep in mind that this is a rapidly evolving situation that currently only pertains to lactating dairy cows. As USDA APHIS changes their guidance, Equity Cooperative Livestock may have to modify our marketing services.

Know that your cooperative's Board of Directors and Management Team are dedicated to providing the best possible service to our patron members, especially during these challenging times.