

DAIRY CATTLE EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS FAQS:

1

Do all dairy animals being shown need tested?

The requirement only applies to lactating cows that are being exhibited. Dry cows, heifers, bulls and other stock do not need tested before exhibition.

2

How far out from exhibition does my test need to be completed?

A test on lactating dairy cattle, for any exhibition within Illinois, must be conducted within seven (7) days of the event. This means that the date the samples are obtained must be within seven (7) days of your arrival to the event.

3

What if my cow is going from one fair directly to another?

If you will be arriving at both fairs within the 7-day window of your sampling date, no additional testing will be required. If that timeframe cannot be met, you must arrange to have a veterinarian sample and submit before arriving at the next fair. To facilitate this process, the University of Illinois will have veterinarians onsite at the Illinois State Fair capable of conducting this sampling and submission.

4

Who will collect my sample?

An accredited veterinarian, or someone under their direct supervision, will collect the sample. However, the sample must be submitted under the veterinarian's name and account. Sampling procedure and submission information can be found at [VDL News - Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory \(illinois.edu\)](https://www.vdl.uiowa.edu/news/veterinary-diagnostic-laboratory). Please note that once the lab receives the samples it can take 48-72 hours to receive results, so timing needs to be considered to complete and receive results within 7 days of the event.

5**Where will the samples be tested?**

Samples must be run at a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) approved lab. The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine's Diagnostic Laboratory is the only approved NAHLN lab within Illinois. Please visit [VDL News - Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory \(illinois.edu\)](http://vdlnews.vetmed.illinois.edu) for more information. Samples may be sent to an out-of-state laboratory if the veterinarian chooses. A list of NAHLN labs can be found at [NAHLN Laboratories \(usda.gov\)](http://naahln.labs.usda.gov). We encourage the owner or veterinarian to check with the lab before submission to ensure they are not backlogged due to the testing requirements in many states and potential overlap of exhibition dates.

6**I was told that I must have a premises identification number for testing. Where can I get this number?**

If you already have a PIN but need confirmation of the number, you can email the Department at AGR.PREMISES@Illinois.gov. If you need to apply for a PIN, please find the application and instructions at [fillable-premiseform-2019.pdf \(illinois.gov\)](http://fillable-premiseform-2019.pdf).

7**What is the cost of testing?**

The costs will vary for producers based on veterinary charges and shipping costs. However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing the testing at NAHLN labs free of charge. Also, producers can apply to the USDA for reimbursement of veterinary and shipping costs. Please visit [USDA Support for Producers with Affected Dairy Premises](http://usda.gov/support-for-producers-with-affected-dairy-premises) to obtain more information on this process.

8**Do I have to test before I go home?**

Testing to return home is not required. However, we encourage exhibitors to isolate all animals that were exhibited before return to remainder of herd. We also encourage all exhibitors to practice biosecurity at the fair and home. More information is available at [Cattle Exhibition Health Tips.pdf \(illinois.gov\)](http://cattle-exhibition-health-tips.pdf) and [Dairy Biosecurity Recommendations for HPAI and More \(illinois.gov\)](http://dairy-biosecurity-recommendations-for-hpai-and-more.pdf).

9**Do exhibitor requirements only apply to the Illinois State Fair and Du Quoin State Fair?**

No, this testing requirement applies to any County Fair or other livestock exhibition in Illinois from date of effect until it is repealed.

10**What do I do with test results?**

Producers will need to show a paper or electronic copy of the tests for each animal onsite at the exhibition. Please note that the animals must be officially identified and the ID in the ear must match what is on the test results. For the Illinois State and Du Quoin State Fairs, identification with an 840 tag is the only acceptable method of ID. If you do not have a test or the ID does not match, you will be sent home with all animals in your string.

11**What happens if an animal tests positive?**

Anyone with a positive test will not be allowed to exhibit any animals. A representative from the Department will reach out to discuss next steps of a disease investigation.

12**Have there been any detections in Illinois?**

No detections of H5N1 in dairy cattle have occurred in Illinois to date. However, detections have occurred in 12 states and continue to occur. State, federal and industry partners must work together to protect the industry.