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Sample Collection for Interstate Premovement Testing of Dairy Cattle

(Last Updated 05/01/2024)

The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued guidance document "Requirements and Recommendations for HPAI H5N1 Virus in Livestock (April 26, 2024)" prescribing procedures required to comply with interstate movement requirements.

USDA compliance guidance states samples collected for premovement HPAI testing must be collected by an accredited veterinarian, state licensed veterinarian, or a sample collector approved by the appropriate state animal health official. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) has determined that designated individuals on production sites in Indiana can be trained to collect milk samples and nasal swab samples for diagnostic testing if the collector is under the direct or indirect supervision of a veterinarian. The Indiana supervising veterinarian should be indicated on all associated submission forms and must keep a record of all sample collectors that are under their direct or indirect supervision. [Clinically affected cattle](#) should be reported to BOAH prior to sampling.

- IC 25-38.1-1-7.7 defines "Direct supervision" as, a supervisor [*veterinarian*] is readily available on the premises where the animal is being treated.
- IC 25-38.1-1-9.5 defines "Indirect supervision" as, a supervising veterinarian is not on the premises but: (1) is present within the veterinarian's usual practice area; (2) has given written protocols or oral instructions for the treatment of an animal for which a veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists; and (3) is readily available by telephone or other means of immediate communication.

Samples for interstate premovement testing need to be submitted to an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Laboratory for testing. The [Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Purdue University](#) (ADDL) is an approved NAHLN laboratory.

- ADDL is currently testing samples daily, Monday – Friday with all samples received before noon tested the same day.
- Pooling of milk samples can be done only at the laboratory.

Milk Samples: For lactating cattle, milk/udder secretions should be collected from **individual cows**. Each quarter should be sampled and combined into one collection device for submission to the laboratory. Submissions must be between 3-10 ml of milk per animal. The recommended collection device is a 10 ml additive-free (red top) blood collection tube. Each collection device should be numbered with a Tube ID that corresponds with the [laboratory submission form](#).

Nasal Swabs: For non-lactating cattle, deep nasal swabs are the preferred sample type. A single sterile Dacron swab with at least a 6-inch handle may be used to sample both nostrils. Brush the mucosa in the nasal passages of both nostrils firmly with the swab and place the swab in PrimeStore MTM, BHI, or saline (least preferable).

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Vigorously swirl the swab in the media, express fluid by pressing the swab against the side of the tube and remove the swab. MTM is the only media that can be submitted without ice packs; do not submit dry swabs. Nasal swabs cannot be pooled.

For either sample type:

- Sample collection and testing must take place no more than seven (7) days prior to interstate movement.
- For groups/lots of 30 or fewer animals moving interstate, all animals being moved must be tested. If more than 30 animals are moving interstate, then only 30 animals total must be tested.

APHIS will reimburse for all interstate premovement testing in cattle at NAHLN laboratories; therefore, this testing at NAHLN laboratories will be completed at no cost to the producer/submitter. At this time, APHIS is not reimbursing for sample collection or shipping.