



# USDA Support for Producers with Affected Dairy Premises



On April 24, USDA announced a [Federal Order](#) effective as of April 29, as part of its ongoing efforts to protect the U.S. livestock industry from the threat posed by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI or H5N1) in dairy cattle. The Federal Order (FO) requires mandatory testing prior to the interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle and mandatory reporting of positive influenza A test results in livestock. USDA is taking these actions to address any risks to animal health, public health, and the safety of our food supply. To help producers enhance their biosecurity practices, USDA is offering additional support for producers who have HPAI confirmed positive dairy herds so they have tools to eliminate the virus and can protect their animals, themselves, their families, and their employees.

## Eligibility

Dairy producers with premises that have been confirmed positive for HPAI are eligible for USDA support to conduct activities that best fit their operations. Support for these interventions is available for a period of up to 120 days from the date of confirmation of H5N1 in cattle on the affected premises.

## Enrollment and Verification

Interested producers will contact the [Area Veterinarian in Charge](#) to enroll.

Producers will work with USDA personnel to develop a plan for their premises—detailing planned testing and movement, biosecurity practices and other planned activities. Following the development of this plan, the producer will draft a Detailed Financial Plan (DFP) to include all the planned activities, purchases and services associated with the actions they select (from the list below) that will be eligible for USDA financial support.

In order to assure fiscal accountability with federal funds, USDA personnel—a Field Reimbursement Specialist or their designee—will conduct a review every 30 days to monitor the progress in implementing the components of the action(s) which they have chosen to implement (e.g., is PPE being used appropriately, is the enhanced biosecurity plan being implemented).

The producer will be provided with information to sign up for a System for Award Management (SAM) registration, which will provide for the mechanism of payment or offered an alternative method of payment (e.g., providing an EFT form for direct deposit payments, requesting a paper check be drafted), although these other options will result in less timely payments compared to SAM.

## Payments

Every 30 days, the producers will be provided a form (VS 1-23) to review and sign verifying the costs associated with actions below per mechanism established above.

# Actions

**Protect against the potential for disease spread between humans and animals.** USDA will provide financial support for producers with affected herds who supply PPE to employees and/or provide outerwear uniform laundering and facilitate the participation of their workers in a USDA/CDC workplace and farmworker study.

- A flat rate per employee will be offered to producers who elect this option, up to \$2,000 per affected premises per month.
- Producers will need to provide proof of purchase of PPE or the cost of laundering services as well as acknowledgement from CDC of their participation in the study.

**Support producers in biosecurity planning and implementation.** USDA will provide support to develop biosecurity plans based on existing secure milk supply plans. This includes recommended enhanced biosecurity for individuals that frequently move between dairy premises—milk haulers, veterinarians, feed trucks, AI technicians, etc.

- Producers can elect to hire private entities to develop site specific plans, conduct biosecurity trainings, and perform audits.
  - Producers would be compensated up to \$1,500 per affected premises for these services after verification and inclusion on the DFP.
- Producers could elect to work with State personnel who would develop site specific plans, conduct biosecurity trainings, and perform audits.
  - States would be compensated under a cooperative agreement based on the flat rates for activities chosen by the producer.
- USDA will provide a \$100 payment to producers who purchase and install an in-line sampler for their milk system on an affected premises.

**Provide funding for heat treatment to dispose of milk from sick cows in a bio secure fashion.** This will provide producers a safe option to dispose of their milk from sick cows. Heat treatment performed in accordance with standards set by FDA is the only currently available method considered to effectively inactivate the virus in milk from sick cows.

- If a producer establishes a system to heat treat all waste milk from sick cows before disposal, USDA will pay the producer up to \$2,000 per month, up to \$8,000 total, per affected premises.

**Reimburse producers for veterinarian costs associated with confirmed positive HPAI premises.** USDA will provide support to producers to cover veterinary costs necessarily incurred for treating cattle infected with HPAI, as well as fees for veterinarians to collect samples for testing.

- This can include veterinary fees and/or specific supplies needed for treatment and sample collection.
- Veterinary costs are eligible for reimbursement from the initial date of positive confirmation at NVSL for that premises, up to \$10,000 per premises.

**Offset shipping costs for influenza A testing at laboratories in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.** USDA will pay for the cost for of shipping samples to NAHLN labs for testing.

- USDA will pay actual shipping costs, not to exceed \$50 per shipment for up to 2 shipments per month for each affected premises.