

# BIOSECURITY

## Recommendations for Exhibitors



### BEFORE THE EXHIBITION

- 1. Ensure that any lactating dairy cows** you plan to enter in any show or exhibition have tested negative for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A (H5N1) with an approved screening test within 7 days of arrival to the exhibition site.
- 2. Make sure:**
  - to contact the organizers for event-specific exhibition requirements before the event.
  - when participating in an exhibition in the United States, be aware of requirements for cattle movement back into Canada.
  - exhibitors are reminded that extra time is required for herd veterinarians to visit and collect samples and for the samples to be processed and tested at an approved laboratory.
    - For instance, if you plan to show on August 31, the latest date the test is considered acceptable is August 24.
- 3. Familiarize yourself with signs of influenza** in cattle (e.g., decreased milk production, appetite, and rumen motility, thick or discolored milk, lethargy, fever, and/or dehydration, signs of mastitis in 1 or more quarters, dry manure, constipation, nasal discharges, or diarrhea in some cases) and do not participate in an animal event if present in your cattle.
- 4. Avoid comingling animals from different premises/farms** after the screening test is done. Animals from different herds should be transported separately to minimize the risk of cross-contamination.
- 5. Work with your herd veterinarian** to ensure the animals:
  - have NOT been to a location with known positive HPAI A (H5N1) dairy herds in the last 60 days (e.g., a state in the United States).
  - are not showing any clinical signs of potential infectious, contagious, or communicable disease.
  - are in good health and have received vaccination against common diseases (e.g., BVD, IBR, BRSV, and PI3).
- 6. Clean and disinfect** all equipment that you plan to bring to the event (e.g., feed equipment, cleaning tools, grooming equipment, inside and outside of vehicles and trailers, portable milking equipment, etc.) using safe and approved disinfectants.
- 7. Ensure that when attending an exhibition,** you do not have any symptoms of respiratory illness and that you have not traveled outside Canada or visited a HPAI A (H5N1) positive farm in the last 72 hours prior the event.

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## DURING THE EXHIBITION

- 1. Report any animal health concerns** to the organizers immediately. It is recommended that organizers have a veterinarian on-site or on-call to handle any animal health concerns or emergencies. See the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guidance for veterinarians](#).
- 2. Do not share** equipment or personnel with other exhibitors and avoid close contact with other exhibitor's animals. If equipment is shared, make sure to clean and disinfect between every use.
- 3. Put in place** measures to:
  - prevent/minimize nose-to-nose contact with other livestock.
  - minimize animal-to-human contact.
  - avoid use of communal water sources.
  - minimize animal stress by keeping them cool and comfortable, and providing food and water.
  - manage manure and bedding (e.g., established cleanable manure collection sites that contain bedding/manure/urine).
- 4. Follow** the event organizers guidance for biosecurity measures, including measure for raw milk handling and disposal.
- 5. Make sure** that animals' handlers:
  - Wash their hands and wear disposable gloves.
  - Use only clean clothes and clean boots when interacting with and between animals at the fair. Do not use the same clothes to care for the animals at home and at the fair.
  - Thoroughly clean and disinfect boots, clothing, and all equipment, including transport vehicles, before you bring it back on your farm (in contact with the rest of your herd).
  - Consider using a well-fitting mask such as N95 when in contact with the animals and stay home if they have any signs of illness.
- 6. Do not** feed other animals with raw milk and do not drink or offer raw milk to visitors.
- 7. Dispose of** used PPE at the organizer's designated PPE collection points immediately after use to prevent contamination and minimize exposure risks.

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## AFTER THE EXHIBITION

### BEFORE RETURNING HOME

- 1. Dispose** of unused bedding, hay, and feed, clean and disinfect all equipment (tack, buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, clothing, and footwear).
- 2. Dispose** of single-use gloves, masks, eye protection and boot covers, if used.
- 3. Wash** your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling anything that was in contact with animals. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not available.

### WHEN YOU ARRIVE HOME

- 1. Wash** your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- 2. Shower**, blow your nose, and put on clean clothes and shoes.
- 3. Clean** and disinfect vehicles and trailers used to transport animals when back home from the exhibition.
- 4. Keep** and milk returning livestock separate from other animals for 30 days and ensure that they have tested negative for HPAI A (H5N1) on an approved screening test before being reintroduced into the herd.
  - **Feed** and work with returning animals last, and have separate equipment (forks, shovels, buckets, etc.) for these animals.
- 5. Wear** different clothes and boots when working with returned animals.

This guidance document was created in collaboration with several provincial chief veterinary officers, industry, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. The information in this document is subject to change based on emerging cases and regulatory guidance.



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