

Best Practices For *Handling Milk at Cattle Shows*

To minimize the spread of diseases (e.g., highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A (H5N1) to other animals or into the environment at livestock exhibitions hosting events with lactating cows, preventative measures must be in place to safely handle milk collected from cattle.

The following are some best practices:



Need to milk cattle?

Ensure milk collected is from cattle that have tested negative for H5N1 influenza and are NOT showing clinical signs of mastitis (off-colored milk, clots, flakes, swelling, blood).

Wash and Disinfect

Wash and disinfect the milking unit between each animal.



Heat-treat Before Disposal

Heat-treat (pasteurize) any milk before disposal. Do not offer raw milk to visitors or other animals.

In the absence of pasteurization

If milk is not collected in bulk for disposal, and pasteurization is unavailable at the event, store milk in sealed containers and discard it at the premise of origin.



Human - Animal Interaction

Limit the amount of direct contact humans and other animal species have with milk and cattle. Activities such as "Milk-a-Cow" should be discouraged.

Biosecurity and Milk Handling

Follow the milk handling biosecurity protocol designed for the event.

