

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Cattle FAQ

### Q. Does VMDL provide PCR testing for HPAI in cattle?

Yes. The VMDL tests milk samples for pre-movement of lactating cows. Sample collection and testing must take place within seven (7) days prior to interstate movement.

Testing non-lactating healthy animals is not required at this time. If testing is needed, collect nasopharyngeal swab samples and submit for PCR testing.

Please contact the lab for swab and transport media. Dry swabs will not be tested.

### Q. Does VMDL provide serology testing for HPAI in cattle?

VMDL is planning to offer an HPAI ELISA test for cattle in the coming weeks.

### Q. Are animals tested individually?

- 1). For movement or surveillance, animals are not tested individually. Please collect and submit samples individually. VMDL personnel will pool the samples for testing. The test will be at NO COST to clients. Samples pooled prior to arrival at the lab will not be covered under the Federal Order and will be subject to a testing fee.
- 2). For clinical (suspected) cases, please contact the MO State Vet. A Foreign Animal Disease Investigation (FAD) may be conducted by state animal health officials. Animals will be tested individually.

### Q. What are the milk collection instructions?

- 1). Samples should be collected under the supervision of a licensed or accredited veterinarian or as determined by the respective SAHO. Collect milk/udder secretions from individual cows. Ensure each quarter is sampled. Combine the milk from each quarter of the same cow into one container.
- 2). Submit between 3-10 ml of milk per animal in a milk vial or a leak proof tube.
- 3). Refrigerate and ship on ice.
- 4). For groups/lots of 30 or fewer animals moving interstate, all animals must be tested.
- 5). If more than 30 animals are moving interstate, test 30 randomly selected animals.
- 6). Provide official animal ID, premise ID, and sample collection date on the submission form.
- 7). Do not submit bulk or pooled milk samples, or other products for testing – they are NOT covered by the Federal Order.

### Q. If the cow is being dried up but is still lactating, what is the minimum amount of milk needed for testing?

If the cow is “dry,” she is exempt. If she is still milking, the requirement is the same as all lactating cows, between 3-10 ml of milk per animal.

### Q. Can the VMDL test colostrum or transition milk?

Yes. Guidelines are the same as above for colostrum.

### Q. What happens if animals are positive for HPAI?

Lactating dairy cattle from herds which have tested positive are not eligible for interstate movement for 30 days from the most recent collection of any sample that tests positive from any individual animal in the herd. After the 30-day period, animals must be tested again for movement.

Work with MO State Vet on epidemiologic investigation.