

## **Testing Lactating Dairy Cows for Influenza A Prior to Interstate Shipment: Guidelines from the MDA VMDL**

The USDA has implemented a pre-movement Influenza A testing requirement for lactating dairy cows moving across state lines.

Currently, the fees associated with influenza A PCR testing at a NAHLN veterinary diagnostic laboratory are being paid by the USDA. The Missouri Department of Agriculture Veterinary Diagnostic Lab is a NAHLN lab.

Current guidelines for testing include:

### **Samples:**

- **Milk samples are the only approved samples.**
- **Milk from each quarter should be combined in one vial for each cow. Cows are required to be tested individually.**
- Submit milk in screw top containers, if possible. If snap cap containers are used, ensure lids fit tightly.
- The lab will need 3-15 ml of milk from each cow that is being tested.

### **Submission:**

- **Premises IDs are required.** If your operation does not have a premises ID, contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture at (573) 751-3377 or visit [our website](#) to obtain an ID.
- Accurate individual animal IDs are of critical importance. Discrepancies between IDs on sample labels and IDs on submission forms may result in delays related to shipping of animals.
- The most current [MDA Lab submission form](#) is available online.

### **Testing:**

- The USDA order states **animals must test negative within seven days of shipment.**
- At the MDA VMDL, Influenza A PCR testing for lactating dairy cows will take place on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** each week, with results **typically** the same day. Plan submissions accordingly.

### **Results:**

- Results will be sent to veterinarians via the MDA USALIMS reporting system, which will increase the speed of reporting if the lab has a valid e-mail address on file.
- Positive results will be reported to the state veterinarian and to USDA-APHIS and will require follow-up disease investigation.

The Federal Order currently *only* applies to lactating dairy cows, not dry cows, bred heifers or youngstock.

Contact the MDA VMDL at (417) 895-6861 or [brian.collins@mda.mo.gov](mailto:brian.collins@mda.mo.gov) with any questions.