

June 13, 2024

Good Afternoon 4-H members and families,

The Sheboygan County Fair received notice this week from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) that it is requiring Influenza A testing prior to movement of lactating dairy cattle to fairs or exhibitions beginning June 19, 2024.

This order was recommended by the USDA to minimize the potential spread of influenza which is now in 12 states including Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota. The hope is to limit the risk of commingling infected animals. In order to move lactating dairy cattle to fairs or exhibitions within the state, producers must receive a negative test for Influenza A virus at an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratory with samples collected no more than 7 days prior to movement to the fair or exhibition. This testing is available to producers at no cost through USDA. Producers may also apply for reimbursement of shipping and veterinary fees for collection of samples. This intrastate order requiring a negative Influenza A test prior to traveling to a show or exhibition will remain in effect until 60 days after the last detection of H5N1 in cattle herds in the United States.

Therefore, please contact your farm veterinarian to work out a plan for testing if you are bringing any lactating dairy cattle to the Sheboygan County Fair. This will include **both Junior Fair and Open Class dairy cattle**. A copy of all paperwork including a negative test result will need to accompany any animals that do come to the fair. Please know that this is a very fluid situation and things are changing rapidly. We will keep you updated on any changes prior to the fair.

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