



USDA Support Options for Dairy Herd Producers

In March 2024, USDA confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle. Since then, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as State veterinary and public health officials, have been investigating and responding to virus detections in cattle across multiple States.

On May 10, USDA announced financial assistance options for producers with affected herds. On May 23, USDA announced expanded support to include producers whose herds have not tested positive for HPAI. USDA is offering this financial support to help producers enhance their biosecurity practices, offset costs associated with collecting and shipping samples, as well as to help producers eliminate the virus and protect their employees.

Available to Affected and Unaffected Producers

All dairy producers are eligible for the following financial assistance options:

Biosecurity Planning and Implementation – Up to \$1,500 per premises plus \$100 for in-line milk sampler

USDA will provide support to develop biosecurity plans. This includes recommending enhanced biosecurity practices for individuals that frequently move between dairy premises (such as milk haulers, veterinarians, feed trucks, and artificial insemination technicians) as well as on-farm disease management practices, mitigations for wildlife and birds, and other key biosecurity practices.

Eligible expenses include:

- Labor hours for farm workers to complete biosecurity training
- Working with State animal health personnel (compensated through a cooperative agreement with the State) or hiring a private entity to:
 - Develop site-specific biosecurity plans
 - Develop and/or provide biosecurity training
 - Conduct a biosecurity audit
- Purchasing and installing an in-line sampler for the milk system



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) also provides farm loans for biosecurity measures. Learn more at www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/farm-loans-for-biosecurity.pdf.

Offset Shipping Costs for Influenza A Testing – Up to \$50 per shipment, up to 2 shipments per month, for a total of \$100 per month combined

USDA will pay for the cost of shipping samples to laboratories in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) for testing. Eligible expenses include (but may not exceed \$100 per month combined):

- Actual shipping costs for up to two shipments per month for each affected premises.
- Shipping supplies

Testing at NAHLN laboratories for samples associated with these cases (e.g. pre-movement, testing of sick/suspect animals, or samples from concerned producers) is already being conducted at no-cost to the producer.

Available to Unaffected Producers

Reimbursement for Veterinary Costs to Collect Samples – Up to \$2,000 per premises

Beginning on the date of the Federal Order, April 29, 2024, and up to 120 days total, eligible expenses include:

- Veterinarian's fees (hourly rate, call fee, etc.)
- Supplies for HPAI-related sample collection

Available to Affected Producers Only

In addition to being eligible for the programs listed above, dairy producers with premises that have been confirmed positive for HPAI are eligible for the following additional assistance programs:

Heat Treatment to Dispose of Milk – Up to \$8,000 per premises

This will provide producers a safe option to dispose of their milk or inactivate virus in colostrum. Heat treatment performed in accordance with standards set by FDA is the only currently available method considered to effectively inactivate the virus in milk.

- If a producer establishes a system to heat treat all waste milk before disposal or colostrum prior to feeding, USDA will pay the producer up to \$2,000 per month, up to \$8,000 total, per affected premises.
- Methods must treat milk in accordance with FDA standards (www.fda.gov/media/140394/download).

Reimbursement for Veterinary Costs – Up to \$10,000 per premises

USDA will provide support to producers to cover veterinary costs necessarily incurred for treating cattle infected with HPAI. From 14 days prior confirmation and up to 120 days total, eligible expenses include:

- Veterinarian's fees and supplies for HPAI-related animal treatment and sample collection
 - An itemized receipt must be provided
- Labor hours for farm workers to administer treatment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Up to \$2,000 per premises, monthly

USDA will provide financial support for producers with affected herds who supply PPE to employees and/or provide outerwear uniform laundering and facilitate the participation of their workers in a USDA/CDC workplace and farmworker study.

Participation in a CDC epidemiological study is required. Eligible expenses include:

- A flat rate per employee will be offered to producers who elect this option - up to \$10 per person/set of PPE
- Laundering costs, beyond activities normally conducted on the farm, including purchase of increased efficiency machines or detergent with greater cleaning/sanitizing efficacy

Producers will need to provide proof of purchase of PPE or the cost of laundering services.



Milk Loss Offset

FSA is accepting applications through its updated Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish Program to provide financial assistance to dairy producers who incur milk losses due to HPAI infection in their dairy herds. For details, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/ELAP.

How Producers Can Participate

1. Contact the Area Veterinarian in Charge (www.aphis.usda.gov/contact/animal-health) or State Animal Health Official to enroll.
2. Sign an agreement detailing the options you wish to use; this plan includes a stipulation for USDA personnel to conduct a review every 30 days to monitor implementation of these options.
3. Work with USDA personnel to develop a plan for your premises.
4. Register with the System for Award Management (SAM), which provides a mechanism of payment, or an alternative payment method (i.e., electronic funds transfer or paper check). SAM payments are the most timely.
5. Track expenses and maintain receipts for reimbursement.
6. Submit receipts for reimbursement either every 30 days (4 times) or at the end of the 120-day enrollment period.

Payments

Participating producers will have the option to submit receipts and tracked expenses every 30 days for 4 months or once after 120 days. They will receive a VS form 8-18 to review and sign verifying the costs of planned activities.