

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Accredited Veterinarians  
Exhibitors and Show Inspectors

FROM: New England State Veterinarians

CT	Dr. Thamus Morgan	NH	Dr. Stephen K. Crawford
MA	Dr. Lorraine O'Connor	RI	Dr. Scott Marshall
ME	Dr. Rachael Fiske	VT	Dr. Emily Buskey

SUBJECT: **2025 New England Fairs and Shows**

DATE: March 31, 2025

### Special Notices:

Due to the continuing US outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in domesticated and wild birds and in dairy cattle, Animal Health Officials from all six New England States are united in advising the following for agricultural fairs, competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps, or other in-person events that encourage the gathering or co-mingling of birds and/or cattle:

#### Avian species

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of domestic and wild waterfowl species and may recommend delaying or canceling domestic fowl or poultry shows. If events are held, best practices for biosecurity should be implemented.

#### Bovine species

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of any bovines, including both dairy and beef cattle, that have been present in any state at the time that state had a current outbreak of HPAI in cattle. Bovines that have been shipped from currently affected states in 2025 should not be allowed on the premises of New England fairs or shows. Moving to or from an affected state for any reason will void any New England Fair and Show Season Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVIs) that have been issued for such cattle for the remainder of the 2025 season.

The states currently affected by HPAI in cattle can be found on the USDA website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/hpai-confirmed-cases-livestock>

The USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Livestock issued on April 24, 2024, remains in effect. It can be found on the USDA website:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf)

A plan for managing lactating dairy cattle (LDC), including the handling of milk collected at the exhibition facility, should be in place for all fairs and shows where LDC will be on the premises. The state veterinarian's office can provide assistance developing a plan.

#### All species

Animals of all species susceptible to HPAI are potentially subject to quarantine as ordered by the State Veterinarian if HPAI is detected on a premises where the animal is or was exhibited.

**If HPAI is detected in cattle in any New England State, the Agreement between the New England State Veterinarians to allow the use of a single, fair and show season OCVI for New England animals being exhibited in New England will be voided. All exhibited animals would need to be accompanied by an OCVI issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of being checked in at the show premises and/or other state import requirements.**

**Best biosecurity practices for all species should be implemented.**

**Contact the state where animals will be exhibited for the latest updated information.**

### General Requirements for all Species

Currently an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) is required for each state for every animal movement across state lines. Animals crossing state lines must be properly (officially) identified per federal and state Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) requirements. Each state to which an animal travels needs to be contacted to verify that all traceability and movement permit requirements are met before shipping.

Recognizing that during the agricultural fair and show season exhibition animals may be moving to multiple states and locations within a state, the New England state veterinarians, working through the New England States Animal Agricultural Security Alliance (NESAASA), have developed a protocol to facilitate animal movement. The New England State Veterinarians have agreed to allow a show/fair certificate to be valid for the 2025 show season provided the OCVI complies with all federal and state ADT rules.

**One OCVI may be allowed for animals of the same species to be exhibited at fairs or shows in any of the New England states (CT, \*ME, MA, \*\*NH, RI, and \*\*\*VT) when submitted with an itinerary of the dates and locations of the events at which the listed animals are expected to be shown. Only animals that are healthy at the time of shipment may be moved.**

Note that \*ME, \*\*NH, and \*\*\*VT have additional requirements. Certificates of veterinary inspection in these states are valid for a shorter time and may have additional language, movement, and permit requirements. See details below.

For the 2025 Show and Fair Season, livestock animals being exhibited in New England states must have OCVIs that meet the following requirements

- CT, MA, ME, and RI: OCVIs issued on or after January 1, 2025, may be used for animals being shown at fairs and shows in CT, MA, ME, and RI through the 2025 show/fair season ending October 31, 2025.
  - Special Note on The Big E, West Springfield, MA: All bovines must have official USDA RFID tags,
- \*CT and ME: An importation permit for exhibition animals is also required. Contact CT Dept. of Agriculture (860-713-2504) or ME State Veterinarian's Office (207-287-3701) for permits or questions.
- \*\*NH: Animals exhibited in NH must originate in a New England state and move on OCVIs issued on or after April 1, 2025, to participating NH fairs and shows from July 1 to October 31, 2025. Contact NH State Veterinarian's Office (603) 271-2404 for details and permits.
- \*\*\*VT: The fair season is defined as May 1- October 31, 2025. Contact the VT Animal Health Office (802-828-2421) for specific import requirements and permits.

### Requirements, Continued:

- A single OCVI from the animals' home state may be completed for travel to and from the New England states in which the animals will be exhibited.
- Multiple animals of the same species may be listed on one OCVI with appropriate individual IDs and descriptions. Animals of different species may not be listed on the same official health certificate.
- An itinerary of the names and locations for each New England fair or show at which owner expects to show the listed animals and the dates when each animal is expected to be on each site, must be prepared by the owner and presented to the veterinarian at the time the OCVI is written.
- A copy of this planned itinerary must be attached to the OCVI (import and export) for it to be used for more than one fair or show.
  - That proposed list should be signed by the veterinarian and the owner/ exhibitor and reference the relevant OCVI number(s).
  - Electronic OCVIs must include this list of exhibition names, addresses, and dated in the "remarks and comments" section
- The name and address of the first show or fair where the listed animals will be exhibited is to be used as the "destination" along with "New England Fair Season" on the OCVI form. In addition, "See attached list" or a similar statement directing Animal Health Officials or Fair Inspectors to the attached proposed itinerary must be included.
- Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were physically on the show/fairgrounds. This record must be available to fair inspectors at each inspection and check- in.
- Any animal listed on an OCVI that becomes sick must remain home. If the animal is refused entry to any exhibition during 2025 for health reasons it must have a new OCVI issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the next interstate movement.
- Any New England state may end their participation in this agreement and revert to the standard published requirements for livestock imports in the state at any time, in the event of foreign animal disease outbreak or changes to state legislation.

Remember: One certificate for shows in CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, and VT. Contact each state for specific requirements. Import permits are issued by each individual state and must be listed on the OCVI. **The list of events, with dates and locations, where the animals are expected to be shown must accompany the OCVI.** Use one certificate per species. All animals must be listed individually, with appropriate official ID numbers and physical descriptions.

***Sick animals may not be shipped anywhere.***

Please contact the destination state for import/ exhibition permits or with any questions about movement requirements:

CT	860-713-2504	NH	603-271-2404
MA	857-348-3922	VT	802-828-2421
ME	207-287-3701	RI	401-537-4281

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

100 Cambridge Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02114  
www.mass.gov/agr



Maura T. Healey  
GOVERNOR

Kimberley Driscoll  
LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR

Rebecca L. Tepper  
SECRETARY

Ashley E. Randle  
COMMISSIONER

April 2, 2025

Order 1017-AHO-25

### ANIMAL HEALTH ORDER

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws ("M.G.L."), Chapter 129, § 2

**ISSUED TO:** All Individuals, entities, associations, and interested parties involved in the hosting or organization of any exhibition, show, swap or other in-person event encouraging the gathering or commingling of waterfowl.

#### INTRODUCTION

This Order ("Order") is issued in response to the continued spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza ("HPAI") in domestic birds and dairy cattle across the United States.

#### JURISDICTION

This Order is issued under the authority vested in the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources ("MDAR") under M.G.L. c. 129, § 2.

#### PARTIES

1. MDAR is a duly authorized administrative agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts acting pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 129, § 2.
2. All Individuals, entities, associations, and interested parties involved in the hosting or organization of any competition, exhibition, show, swap or other in-person event in Massachusetts encouraging the gathering or commingling of waterfowl.

#### SUMMARY OF APPLICABLE LAW

3. M.G.L. c. 129, § 1 states, in part, the following:

"Domestic animals", all animals including poultry that are kept or harbored as domesticated animals. Poultry as used in this section shall include chickens, roosters, capons, hens, turkeys, pigeons, guinea fowl, and ducks and geese other than wild species."

4. M.G.L. c. 129, § 2 states the following:

"The director may make and enforce reasonable orders, rules, and regulations relative to the following: the sanitary condition of neat cattle, other ruminants and swine and of places where such animals are kept; the prevention, suppression and extirpation of contagious diseases of domestic animals; the establishing of disease-free herds of cattle and the issuing of certificates in connection therewith; the inspection, examination, quarantine,

care and treatment or destruction of domestic animals affected with or which have been exposed to contagious disease, the burial or disposal of their carcasses, and the cleansing and disinfection of places where contagion exists or has existed. No rules or regulations shall take effect until approved by the governor and council.”

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

5. HPAI is a highly contagious disease that affects both domestic and wild birds. This disease is deadly to many species of domestic birds and the spread of HPAI in domestic flocks may lead to interstate and international trade restrictions. Therefore, the prevention of the spread of the disease is of utmost importance to the residents and agricultural businesses located within the Commonwealth.
6. Since 2022, HPAI has been detected in multiple counties across the Commonwealth in both wild birds and domestic flocks. In 2024, Avian Influenza infections were detected in dairy cattle in multiple states. Recent data suggests that currently circulating avian influenza virus strains may be capable of infecting additional species. Contact with wild waterfowl or areas where they congregate is directly or indirectly linked to all domestic poultry detections in New England.
7. The gathering of waterfowl from different premises to a central location increases the risk of disease spread.
8. Animal Health Officials from all six New England States are recommending all competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps or other in-person events encouraging the gathering or commingling of waterfowl be cancelled through the end of 2025.

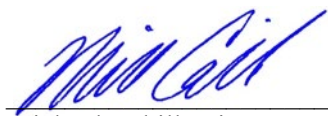
## **ORDER**

NOW THEREFORE, based upon the above knowledge and information, the Director of Animal Health **hereby orders the cancelation or postponement of all competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps or other in-person events encouraging the gathering or commingling of waterfowl in Massachusetts until further notice.**

The above notice does not prohibit the movement of domestic fowl or poultry into slaughter channels, including licensed live bird market sales facilities.

This Order will be rescinded on January 1, 2026, unless circumstances demand an extension at that time.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call 617-626-1795.



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Michael Cahill, Director  
Division of Animal Health