



Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Update – HPAI/H5N1

Requirements for attending the 2026 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

September 23, 2026

In consultation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food (OMAFRA), The Royal continues to monitor the status of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI/H5N1). The Royal is committed to supporting national herd health and following CFIA regulations.

Requirements for attending the 2026 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair:

Note: This process continues to be identical to 2024 and 2025

In addition to the current CFIA border requirements (see below), the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair requires non lactating cattle originating in the United States to provide a negative HPAI test from an accredited lab prior to being allowed off the trailer into the barns.

Canadian exhibitors who have recently returned from the US are required to provide the RAWF with proof of (the CFIA required) negative test.

Testing confirmation must be emailed to entries@royalfair.org prior to being allowed entry onto the Royal grounds. Please include your exhibitor name and farm name along with the correct animal registration info to match the HPAI testing results.

Please utilize the government resources as the definitive source of information. The below summary is provided for reference.

Import [requirements](#) for Canadian origin cattle re-entering Canada after a short stay in the U.S. (<60 days): Additional [requirements](#).

Lactating cattle	Non-lactating cattle
• Canadian and American veterinary certificates. • HPAI testing within 7 days prior to returning to Canada. • Import permit if the stay is 30-60 days. • Not eligible to return for 60 days if in contact with a communicable disease. • <i>Post-import 14-day mandatory isolation period post-return.</i>	• Canadian and American veterinary certificates. • Import permit if the stay is 30-60 days. • Not eligible to return for 60 days if in contact with a communicable disease. • <i>Pending: post-import requirements including 14-day mandatory isolation period post-return.</i>

• <i>bulk tank test by your veterinarian and testing of the individual imported dairy cattle, including heifers, between 14 and 21 days after return</i>	• <i>Bulk tank test by your veterinarian and testing of the individual imported dairy cattle, including heifers, between 14 and 21 days after return</i>
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Import [requirements](#) for U.S. origin cattle to Canada:

Lactating cattle	Non-lactating cattle
• Import permit. • Veterinary certificate within 30 days. • HPAI testing within 7 days prior to movement. • Not eligible to export for 60 days if in contact with a communicable disease.	• Import permit. • Veterinary certificate within 30 days. • Not eligible to export for 60 days if in contact with a communicable disease.

USDA Conditions for US cattle returning from a show/ exhibition:

Applicable Conditions

1. An official health certificate is required.
2. returning U.S.-origin cattle: provided the cattle are returning to the US from Canada within 60 days (within 90 days for show/exhibition cattle): A copy of original US export certificate on which it entered Canada is required.

2. Importers must contact the VS port veterinarian at the U.S. port of entry at least 72 hours prior to arrival to schedule an inspection on arrival. Contact information can be found here:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/contact/trade>

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact USDA using the following information.

Please NOTE our office hours when emailing and/or calling us.

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: +1 (301) 851-3300

Sample: timeline for Canadian Cattle exhibiting at World Dairy Expo

Monday October 4 – Test for border crossing home to Canada

Monday October 12 – Last day to have complete border crossing (if testing on Oct. 5) – return to home farm

Monday October 26 – End of 14-day quarantine. On farm test for all cattle that have been in the US (lactating and non lactating) and bulk tank test.

Friday November 6 – Receive test results – Forward results to RAWF entry@royalfair.org – Cattle are allowed to move freely. *If you require a test and do not provide it prior to arrival you will not be permitted into the facilities.

Sunday November 8 – Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic move in. (must follow the above guidelines if exhibiting or traveling from the US)

November 9 – 2pm Open Dairy Show move in begins

For general Royal inquiries please contact us in the show office by phone at 416-263-3418 or email us at entry@royalfair.org

For more detailed information on regulations and this disease risk please refer to the CFIA website.
