

Voluntary **Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program**
Enrollment Agreement
2024

This agreement is made by and between _____ {Insert name of dairy owner} (hereinafter "Owner"), the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services (hereinafter "Department") and the United States Department of Agriculture (hereinafter "USDA"). This agreement shall become effective upon the signature of all Parties. This agreement may be signed in counterparts.

This agreement establishes conditions of the USDA and Department voluntary *Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program (Program)*, which provides for monitoring of Pennsylvania dairy herds for the Dangerous Transmissible Disease Influenza A Virus in Livestock (IAV). The *Program*, subject to required approvals of the USDA, Department, and the State of destination, may provide alternative testing and movement options for interstate movement and exhibition of dairy cattle from herds in compliance with the *Program*. The "Owner" is responsible for assuring all movements of animals taking part in the *Program* meet the State of destination and USDA rules and regulations for importation and interstate movement of animals, and any rules related to exhibition of animals prior to shipment. The Department is not responsible for and shall be held harmless for any violations of such rules or regulations and any rejection of an animal shipped in interstate commerce under this *Program*.

The date of the first sample collection will be considered the participation start date. As the *Program* is voluntary, an owner may decide to cancel participation in the Voluntary *Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program* at any time. The cancellation must be made in writing to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. This voluntary *Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program* may be reviewed and changes to it suggested at any time by any party signatory to it in response to changes in the situation of the herd or premises, or improvements in understanding the nature of IAV epidemiology, or methods to prevent its spread. Any changes to this agreement and the *Program* standards and requirements set forth in this agreement must be agreed upon in writing by all signatory parties.

The Department may Terminate this agreement at any time. Such termination shall be in writing and sent to all parties to this agreement.

I. Enrollment:

1. The owner agrees to:

- a. Follow the Department *Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program* protocol developed by the Department.
- b. Collect samples under the direction of a Category II Accredited Veterinarian.
- c. Have all samples collected by a Department approved sample collector meeting the criteria established under Section III.4. of this agreement.
- d. Allow the Department to verify monitored herd status to third parties requesting verification.
- e. Allow Department personnel to conduct audits of sampling procedures upon request.
- f. Report any suspicion of IAV in the herd to the Department.
- g. Adhere to all standards and requirements established in this agreement.

2. If the owner fails to comply with the above requirements the premises may be removed from the *Program* unless the owner complies with corrective actions required by the Department.

3. Upon signature of this agreement, the herd will be entered into a database with a “pending” *Program* status.

4. Upon completion of three consecutive weekly milk samples that test Not Detected or Negative for IAV the herd will be given an “active” status as a “Monitored Dairy Herd” in the *Program*.

II. Herd Premises Information: The “Owner” is the owner of the dairy described below:

Dairy Name:			
Dairy Address (Street, City, Zip):			
Owner Phone Number & Email:		Premises Identification Number:	
Veterinarian:		Veterinarian Phone Number:	
Herd Size:			
Approved Sample Collector Name:			
Approved Sample Collector Phone Number & Email:			

Bovines present on premises (include number, sex, age, stage of lactation if applicable)

Other species present on premises (list type and numbers)

Yes or No Holds a Permit to sell, or sells, distributes, or transfers raw milk other than to a pasteurization plant.

III. Program Qualifying Testing:

1. Weekly tests (PCR or other test approved by the Department) of a representative herd milk sample (bulk tank or in-line sample) in compliance with the current Food and Drug Administration Pasteurized Milk Ordinance for a total of three consecutive weeks is required to qualify for “Monitored Dairy Herd” status.

2. For each of the three weeks, one representative herd milk sample (bulk tank or in-line sample) is collected for each bulk tank emptying over a 24-hour period, or a single collection cycle—whichever is longer.

3. For the third week of qualifying testing, in addition to the bulk tank or in-line sample, one sick pen milk test shall be provided.

4. The Owner agrees to maintain a log of sample collection numbers and dates. This log will be available for review by the Department.

5. The Owner will work with the Department to arrange for samples to be collected by an approved sample collector. Sample collectors approved for representative herd milk sample (bulk tank or in-line sample) may include:

a. A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) Sampler – may include a Bulk Milk Hauler/Sampler, Industry Plant Sampler, or State employee as defined by the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) guidance from the Food and Drug Administration in combination with State authorities.

b. Federal or State officials or alternative samplers selected and approved by USDA and the Department.

c. Category II Accredited Veterinarians.

d. Producers or other samplers under the direction of a Category II Accredited Veterinarian with a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) with the herd owner.

6. All testing will be for influenza A virus (IAV) by PCR or other test approved by the Department and shall be performed at a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory, including the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Services (PADLS) laboratories. All test results must be Not Detected or Negative.

a. If test results are Detected or Positive at a NAHLN lab, samples will be forwarded to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation. The herd will be designated as Presumptive Positive pending confirmatory results.

b. If test results are Detected or Positive at NVSL, details outlined in section IV of this document will apply.

IV. Maintaining “Monitored Dairy Herd” Status:

1. To maintain “Monitored Dairy Herd” status, weekly testing of a representative herd milk sample (bulk tank or in-line sample) for IAV by PCR or other test approved by the Department performed at a NAHLN laboratory for the duration of the *Program* is required.

2. The Owner shall continue to monitor the herd for clinical signs consistent with IAV in dairy cattle and report them to the Department immediately upon detecting such signs.

3. If a weekly test of the bulk tank or in-line sampling is missed, the Owner will receive a notice of non-compliance from the Department, and in addition to immediately submitting a bulk tank or in-line sample for testing, shall provide one sick pen milk test to maintain herd status.

4. If the weekly test of the bulk tank or in-line sampling is missed for two consecutive weeks, the herd’s *Program* status will be marked as “inactive” and the herd Owner will be required to initiate and adhere to the testing requirements established in Section III (Program Qualifying Testing) of this agreement.

5. If a test result is Detected or Positive at a NAHLN lab, the herd will be considered “Presumptive Positive,” and samples will be forwarded from the testing laboratory to NVSL for further testing. During this period the herd may remain in “active” “Monitored Dairy Herd” status.

a. If test results from NVSL are Not Detected or Negative, the herd will retain “Monitored Dairy Herd” status.

b. If test results from NVSL are confirmed as Detected or Positive, the herd will be designated as a “Positive” herd and additional testing and movement requirements will be placed on the herd through an Order of Special Quarantine by the Department until the “Positive” status has been removed. The Owner may elect to continue to take part in the *Program* but all movements of dairy cattle and products will be subject to the terms of the Order of Special Quarantine.

V. Biosecurity Plan Development and Implementation:

1. Biosecurity is critical to reduce the introduction or spread of infectious disease onto a premises. Strong biosecurity practices are important not only to prevent the entry of disease into a herd, but they also help to limit the spread of a disease within a herd and prevent the transmission of disease to humans and other animals.

2. The Owner shall develop and implement a biosecurity plan prior to enrollment in the *Program*. If the Owner does not have a biosecurity plan, the Owner may work with a veterinarian, Pennsylvania State University Extension Agent, or the Department to create a biosecurity plan and begin implementation on the farm. Many resources are available, and include:

- a. [Biosecurity- National Dairy FARM Program](#)
- b. [Biosecurity for dairy operations- TAMU](#)
- c. [Biosecurity for cattle operations- UMN Extension](#)
- d. [Farm Biosecurity- CFSPH \(iastate.edu\)](#)

3. Biosecurity plans shall be made available to be reviewed by the Department upon enrollment in the *Program*.

VI. Recommendations for Adding Cattle to the Milking Herd: The Owner may add additional cattle to the milking herd. However, the following actions are recommended to reduce risk of introducing disease:

1. Lactating cattle should be obtained from a herd of similar status, provided they have been in the milking herd and that premises is participating in the voluntary *Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program*.

2. Non-lactating cattle (ex: dry cows or heifers) should be isolated and tested for IAV prior to moving into the milking herd and having milk comingled with the lactating herd. These cattle may be from the same herd or a herd of similar status. These cattle should be isolated until they are tested for IAV.

VII. Sampling and Submission Guidelines:

1. Representative herd milk sample (bulk tank or in-line sample) — refer to the testing NAHLN laboratory guidelines.

2. Sick pen sampling—options for sampling of animals in the sick or hospital pens include:

a. Bulk milk sample collected from a tank containing milk from all udder quarters of up to five lactating animals in the sick or hospital pen on the day of collection, or

b. Individual milk samples collected from up to five lactating animals held in the sick or hospital pen on the day of collection where an individual animal milk sample includes milk from all udder quarters of each animal.

VIII. Documentation of Participation:

Movements between participating states which are based on the *Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program* status shall include a statement on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection confirming negative status based on bulk tank or in-line testing and attesting to being in compliance with the monitoring program.

SIGNATURES:

Dairy Owner/Agent:			
	Print Name	Signature	Date
PDA Representative:			
	Print Name	Signature	Date
USDA AVIC:			
	Print Name	Signature	Date
Accredited Veterinarian:			
	Print Name	Signature	Date

Please note: This is an agreement for herds to be enrolled in the voluntary *Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program*. Questions may be addressed to 717-307-3259. These procedures may be revised as the situation develops. This application and supporting documents can be submitted by email to: RA-ahds@pa.gov.