

EXHIBITION ANIMAL TESTING PROTOCOL FOR LACTATING DAIRY COWS

1

Identify any lactating animal that will be exhibited at the event.

2

Ensure each animal has an official identification.

- Please note for Illinois and Du Quoin State Fair this must be an 840 tag.
- If you do not have any official ID available, you can contact the Department to order 840 tags or speak to your veterinarian regarding officially identifying at time of test.

3

Make sure your farm has a premises identification number (PIN).

- If you are unsure of your PIN, email AGR.PREMISES@Illinois.gov
- If you need to apply for a PIN, visit [fillable-premiseform-2019.pdf](https://www.illinois.gov/agriculture/Pages/fillable-premiseform-2019.pdf) (illinois.gov).

4

Contact your herd or local veterinarian to schedule testing.

- Sampling must occur within 7 days of arrival at event.
- The veterinarian will schedule a time to visit and submit samples to accommodate the 7-day time frame.
- Lab turnaround time is 48-72 hours. Schedule your visit with your veterinarian to ensure you have adequate time to get sample collected, submitted and results received within the 7-day window.

5

The veterinarian, or someone under their direct supervision, will visit the farm to collect the appropriate samples.

- Milk samples will be collected. The samples should be submitted in a leak proof container such as screw cap tube.
- Samples must be obtained from each quarter. The sample volumes of each should be a total of 3-10ml volume.
- Do not pool multiple cows; individual samples are submitted to the lab. The lab will pool as appropriate.

- Please visit the selected NAHLN lab website for further sampling information.
- Ensure all the animals' official ID's match what is recorded on the test.
- The veterinarian will submit to a NAHLN lab, and the testing will be conducted at no cost.
 - Producers should visit [USDA Support for Producers with Affected Dairy Premises](#) to apply for additional support in the form of reimbursement for veterinary and shipping costs.

6

Maintain record results to provide at exhibition.

- The veterinarian will receive results, and in some cases, the owner may receive them directly. Otherwise, reach out to your veterinarian to obtain a copy of the test record.
- Place copy of tests with other necessary documentation for exhibition. Owner must be able to provide exhibition staff with a paper or electronic copy of the results.

The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory is the National Animal Health Laboratory Network approved lab within Illinois. You can visit their website at [VDL News - Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory \(illinois.edu\)](#) to gather more information regarding submission to their lab. You may also visit [NAHLN Laboratories \(usda.gov\)](#) to identify other approved labs and reach out to them directly regarding submission and turn around times.