

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Accredited Veterinarians  
Exhibitors and Show Inspectors

FROM: New England State Veterinarians  
CT Dr. Thamus Morgan NH Dr. Mark Prescott  
MA Dr. Lorraine O'Connor ME Dr. Taryn Pearson  
RI Dr. Scott Marshall VT Dr. Kaitlynn Levine

SUBJECT: 2026 New England Fairs and Shows

DATE: March 27, 2026

### Avian Influenza (HPAI) 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 comingling 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. Waterfowl exhibitions are currently banned in MA through April 30, 2026, which may be extended.

#### 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 2026 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 2026 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-confirmedcases-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.

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.**

**2026 Fair and Show New England Health Certificates For the 2026 Show and Fair Season, domesticated animals from New England states (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT) may be exhibited at fairs and shows in New England throughout the fair and show season using a single Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) that meet the requirements outlined in this memo.**

General Requirements (all NE states):

- 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.
  - o 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 **first show or fair** where the listed animals will be exhibited will be the **Consignee** on the OCVI, as shown here: **New England Fair Season** Street address of first fair or show See Exhibition List
- Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were physically on 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.** Any animal that is **refused entry** to any exhibition during 2026 for health reasons must have a new OCVI issued by an accredited veterinarian **within 30 days** of the next fair or show where it will be exhibited.
- 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.

#### State-specific requirements:

##### • CT

- o Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
- o An importation permit for exhibition animals is required for cattle, camelids, goats, sheep, and swine
- o Testing and vaccinations are required for some species
- o Contact CT Dept. of Agriculture for permits and requirements at 860-713-2504 or [AGR.SVCS@ct.gov](mailto:AGR.SVCS@ct.gov)

##### • MA

- o Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 through October 31, 2026
- o Contact MDAR at 857-348-3922 or 617-626-1795 with questions

##### • ME

- o Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
- o An importation permit for exhibition animals is required for some species [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal\\_health/livestock\\_importation.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_health/livestock_importation.shtml)
- o Contact ME State Veterinarian's Office at 207-287-3701 with questions

##### • RI

- o Fair and Show OCVIs may be used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
- o Contact the RI State Veterinarian's Office at 401-537-4281 with questions

##### • NH

- o Fair and show OCVIs may be issued on or after April 1, 2026, and used for participating NH fairs and shows from July 1 through October 31, 2026
- o Contact NH State Veterinarian's Office (603) 271-2404 for permits

##### • VT:

- o Fair and show OCVIs may be issued on or after April 1, 2026, and used for participating VT fairs and shows from May 1 through October 31, 2026
- o Contact the VT Animal Health Office at 802-828-2421 for specific import requirements and permits

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

**Reference Page:** <https://portal.ct.gov/doag/-/media/doag/state-vet/2026/2026-ne-fairs-memo-march-2026.pdf?rev=128d8ba37e5f4fcb1658c47feef81d7&hash=8B524652D54E97A55942D81E07B359F2>