

California Department of Food and Agriculture H5N1 Regional Strategy

North Coast

Prevent introduction

- Dairy & Poultry Biosecurity: Technical assistance and proactive biosecurity support.
- Dairy Movement & Practices: Source replacements from known disease-free regions.
- Communication: Foster increased information exchange between dairies and poultry farms.
- Testing & Monitoring: Weekly dairy milk testing and active disease surveillance.
- Event Restrictions: Postpone fairs and shows involving poultry or dairy
- **See Page 3 for more information**

Reduce virus; Recover

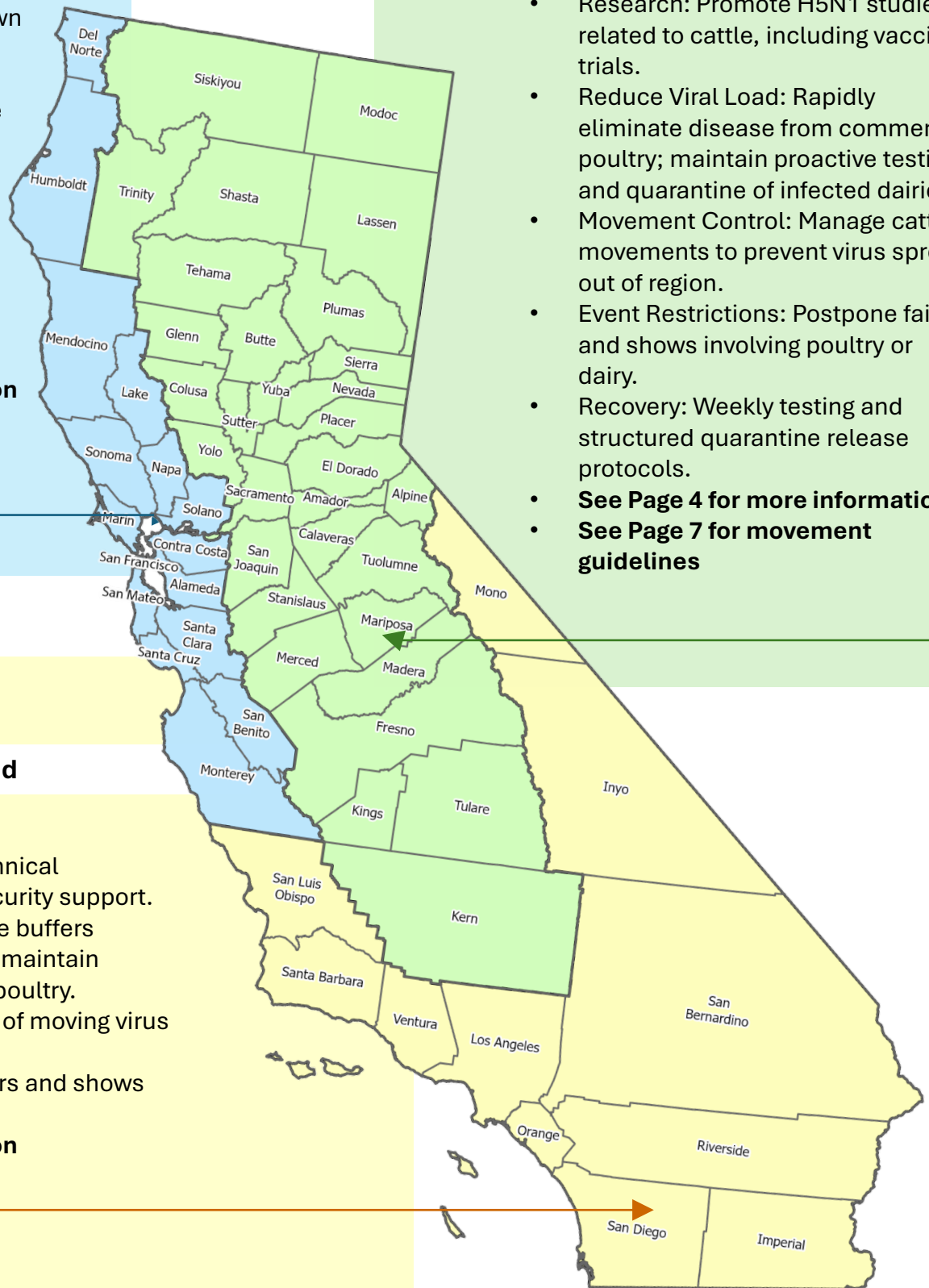
Central Valley

- Dairy & Poultry Biosecurity: Enhanced traffic control, visitor restrictions, and equipment sanitation.
- Research: Promote H5N1 studies related to cattle, including vaccine trials.
- Reduce Viral Load: Rapidly eliminate disease from commercial poultry; maintain proactive testing and quarantine of infected dairies.
- Movement Control: Manage cattle movements to prevent virus spread out of region.
- Event Restrictions: Postpone fairs and shows involving poultry or dairy.
- Recovery: Weekly testing and structured quarantine release protocols.
- **See Page 4 for more information**
- **See Page 7 for movement guidelines**

Southern California

Limit Spread

- Dairy & Poultry Biosecurity: Technical assistance and proactive biosecurity support.
- Reduce Viral Load: Build disease buffers around dense dairy regions and maintain proactive testing of dairies and poultry.
- Movement Control: Reduce risk of moving virus within and out of the region.
- Event Restrictions: Postpone fairs and shows involving poultry or dairy.
- **See Page 9 for more information**



California Department of Food and Agriculture
H5N1 Regional Strategy

Statewide Considerations

- The **scale of H5N1 virus** prevalence in California over recent months is **unprecedented**, with **75% of dairies infected** and over **15 million birds depopulated across more than 62 commercial poultry farms**, including over **70% of the state's egg-producing hens**. This level of impact has never been seen in California, or anywhere else in the world, prior to this outbreak.
- **Re-infection is a growing concern** as dairies test negative and quarantines are released. There is uncertainty about the duration of immunity and the potential clinical impacts of new infections on previously affected dairies. Based on patterns observed with other influenza viruses, both immune competence and the dose of exposure are likely to influence clinical outcomes.
- Growing evidence suggests that **fetuses and calves can become infected** with the virus and other age groups may also experience systemic infection (ongoing research). The **virus is not always confined to the mammary gland** and has been detected in serum, urine, and milk. Calves appear to develop immune competence by 40 days of age, which may reduce the risk of lateral spread, although further data is needed.
- **Health departments remain concerned** that the presence of the virus in cattle, poultry, and other species increases the risk of further mutation and the potential development of pandemic conditions, especially when humans and infected animals have close contact.
- While the current virus is not considered a significant public health threat, cases of cats dying after consuming raw pet food contaminated with H5N1 have raised **public concern and increased regulatory scrutiny of the food supply**.



North Coast

North Coast

Prevent introduction

- **Facilitate poultry biosecurity** to mitigate risk from wild birds AND potential risk from dairies.
 - Provide technical assistance as requested.
- **Facilitate proactive dairy biosecurity:**
 - **Assign a consistent point of contact** (creamery rep, private veterinarians, CDFA, local USDA) to every dairy to provide biosecurity technical assistance and understand movement (consider use of short epi form) related to services, animals, and equipment to and from HPAI infected areas, such as the Central Valley.
 - Leverage **biosecurity kit distribution**.
 - Enhance **communication** with suppliers and service providers (feed).
 - Advise sourcing **heifer replacements that are only from test-negative sources** and avoid sourcing from cattle co-housed on calf-ranches and heifer ranches that may come from infected herds.
- **Postpone fairs and shows that include dairy or poultry.**
- Implement **weekly milk testing** of dairies to quickly identify and limit the spread of disease. Once the state is free from disease, transition to a national surveillance strategy.
- Support **collaboration and connection** among dairies and poultry growers in the region to **communicate disease status** and **discuss biosecurity practices**.

Status

The North Coast of California is currently free from disease and any introduction would be devastating, particularly to poultry producers who are just recovering from outbreaks in the area due to infected wild bird exposure a year ago.



Inland Region

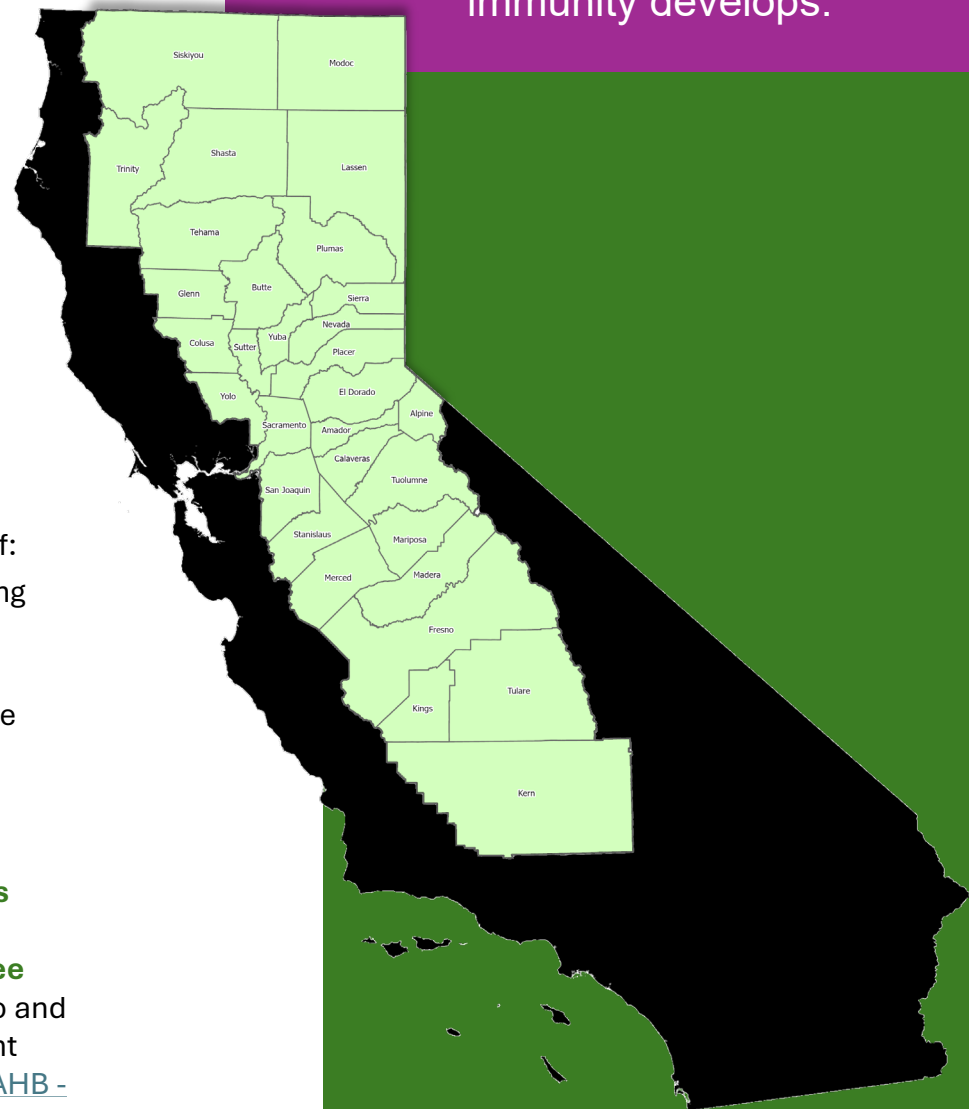
Central Valley

Reduce virus; Recover

- Continue **epidemiological analysis** and **reporting**
- Facilitate **enhanced biosecurity protocols for the dairy industry**, including premises traffic control, visitor limitations, PPE requirements, and cleaning/disinfection (C&D) of equipment and vehicles. Focus on dairies, calf ranches, custom heifer raisers (implicated in outbreaks in Nevada and Southern California), markets, and buying stations.
- Continue to **quarantine test positive dairies and require biosecurity** measures to **reduce risk of viral spread**, while updating **cattle movement restrictions** (see below) to reflect broader immune status.
- **Facilitate H5N1 research studies**, including internal epidemiological risk analysis, and promote data sharing.
- **Manage poultry cases** according to national standards.
- **Facilitate poultry biosecurity** to mitigate risk from wild birds AND risk from dairies, assuming **every dairy poses a threat**.
- Ensure that birds going to slaughter for humans or pets are **test negative for H5N1** through NPIP or Control Area testing.
- **Manage dairy animal movement** to reduce the risk of:
 1. Moving virus out of the region (to support ongoing trade).
 2. Infecting dairies that were never infected or reinfected dairies that have had their quarantine lifted.
 3. Introducing virus to a poultry flock, leading to depopulation of the flock.
- **Support current interstate movement requirements** implemented by USDA or importing states. Support **restrictions of movement into California regions free from H5N1**, particularly all areas north of Sacramento and parts of Southern California. (See Interstate movement requirements or Federal Order here: [CDFA - AHFSS - AHB - H5N1 Bird Flu Virus in Livestock](#)).
- **Postpone fairs and shows that include dairy or poultry.**
- **Quarantined Dairy:** Eliminate movement control on open heifers, feeders, and bulls if older than 85 days, but continue infected premises (IP) biosecurity (see above).

Status

H5N1 virus load is high in the Central Valley but beginning to wane as bird migration (threat to poultry) ends for the season and dairy herd (threat to poultry and uninfected dairies) immunity develops.



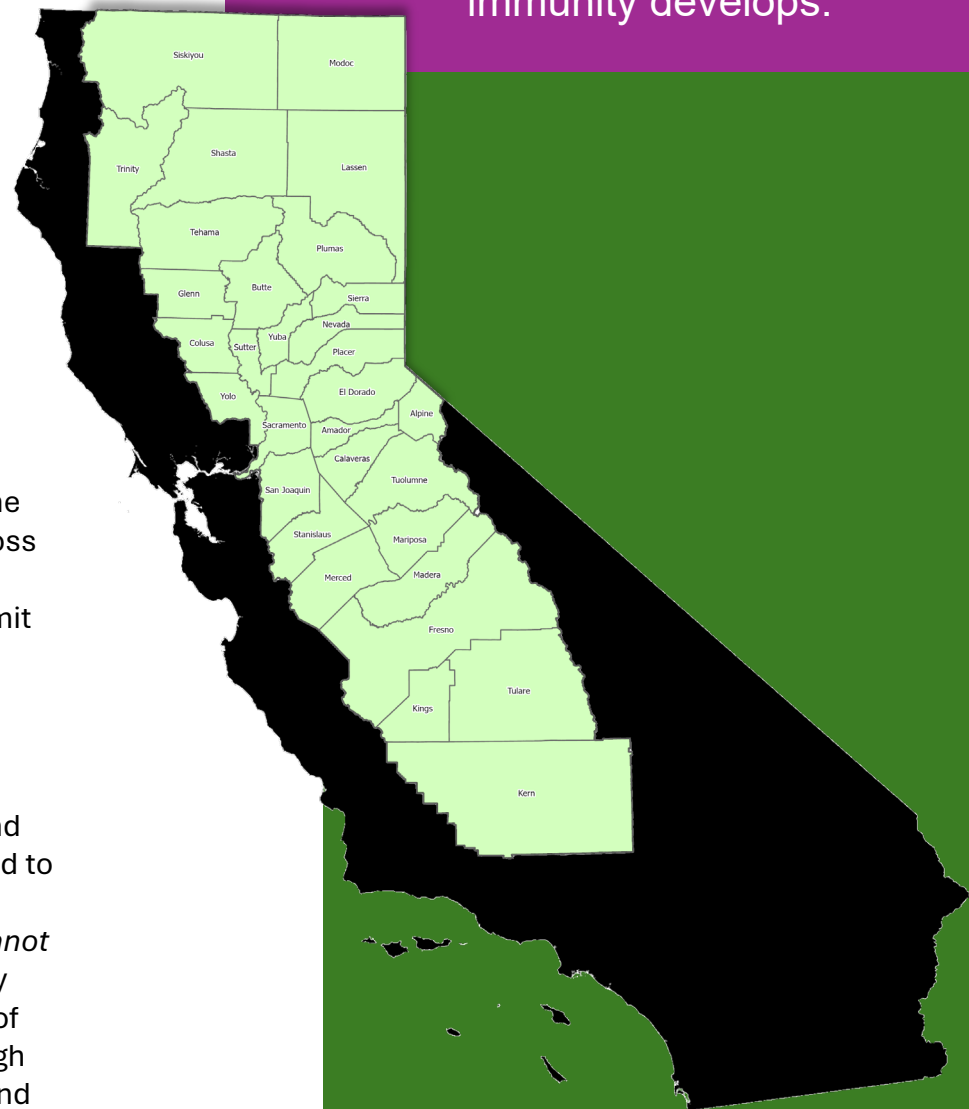
Central Valley, *cont.*

Reduce virus; Recover

- **Quarantined Dairy - Cull Cows (must be dry to leave dairy):** Manage movement of cull cows that have been dried off (no dripping teats and 10 days post last milking) by sending *direct to slaughter*. **If sent through a market, they must be green tagged** to indicate slaughter only. Given the general immune status in the Central Valley, a special market day is not required.
- **Quarantined Dairy - Calves:** Manage calves (unless moving *direct* to slaughter) through 85 days of age via quarantine mandated biosecurity and traceability requirements that include handling of raw milk/colostrum, heat treating milk or the use of milk replacement, and if shipped, routing to minimize risk, location of pick-up at farms away from adult cow areas and to minimize cross traffic, disinfection (people, equipment, and vehicles), C&D when unload, etc. (Notice of Required Action for receiver and permit if move before 85 days).
- **Regional Calf Raisers:** Manage calf movement on and off (unless direct to slaughter) calf ranches via required biosecurity and traceability of <85 day old calves. Note that the entire premises is **NOT quarantined**, but the calves <85 days will be under an **Order of Required Actions**. Biosecurity includes handling of raw milk/colostrum, heat treating milk or the use of milk replacement, traffic control to minimize cross contamination, disinfection (people, equipment, and vehicles), C&D when unload, etc. (quarantine and permit if move before 85 days).
- **Quarantined Dairy - Lactating Cows and Springers:** Manage movement of all lactating cows and pregnant cattle within 30 days of calving from IPs via quarantine mandated biosecurity, movement control (permits), and traceability requirements. Movement via permit allowed to other Quarantined dairies (IPs) or direct to slaughter *without co-mingling with any cattle*. *These animals cannot be moved through markets or buying stations unless by special permit direct to slaughter with no co-mingling of cattle potentially going to uninfected dairies (i.e. through Quarantined premises with special sales/buying day and movement direct to slaughter of all cattle on site that day).*

Status

H5N1 virus load is high in the Central Valley but beginning to wane as bird migration (threat to poultry) ends for the season and dairy herd (threat to poultry and uninfected dairies) immunity develops.



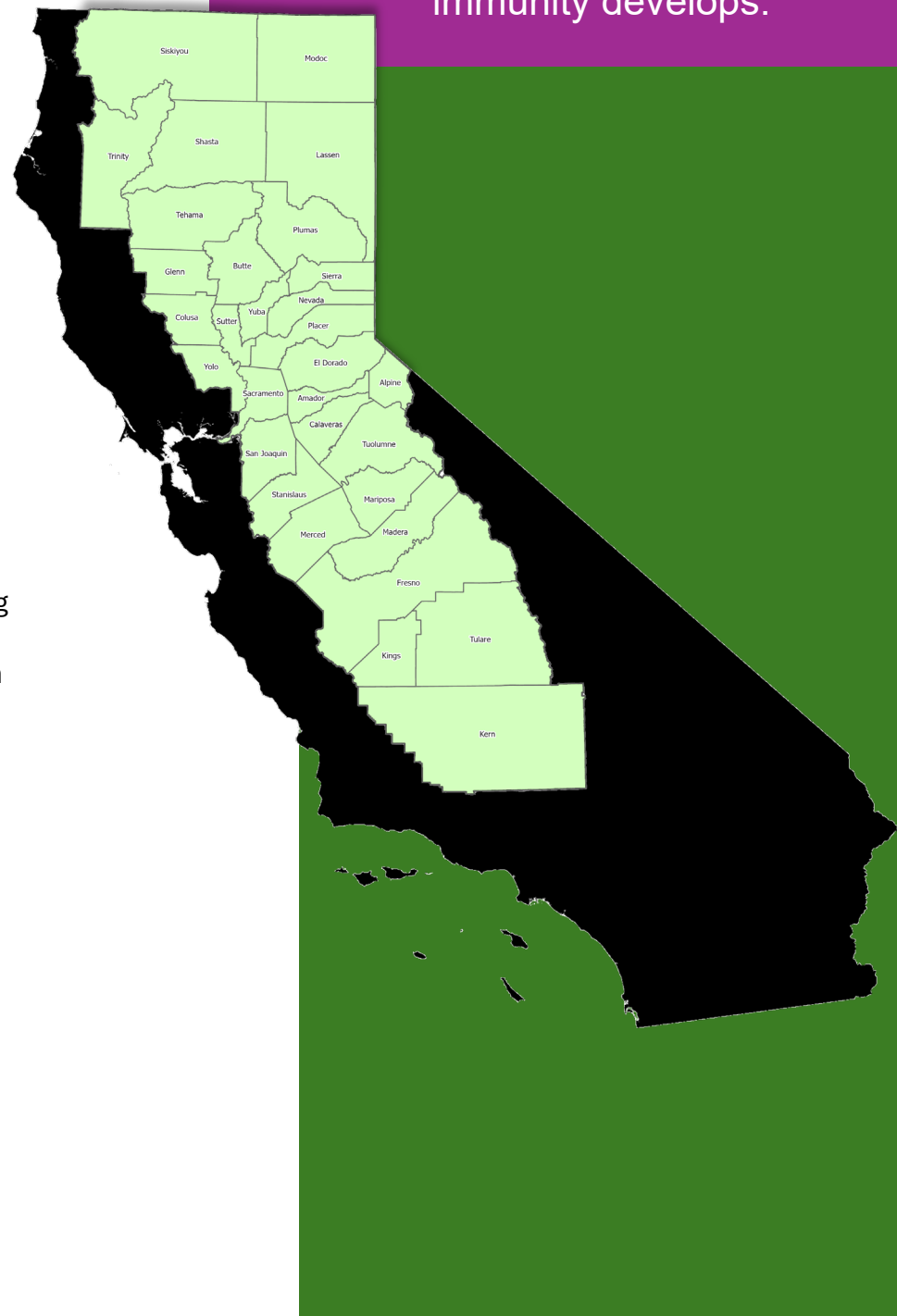
Central Valley, *cont.*

Reduce virus; Recover

- **Non-Quarantined Lactating cows moving anywhere:**
Implement a prohibition of the movement of *all* lactating cows within or out of the region unless they individually test negative within seven days prior to movement, or are being moved from a test negative dairy (bulk tank) under CDFA surveillance, or moving between Quarantined IP's, or moving to slaughter without mingling with any cattle that *may* not go to slaughter. (no permits; just a regional mandate).
- **Non-Quarantined Springers moving out of region:**
Implement a prohibition of movement to counties north of Sacramento or Counties South of the Tehachapi's unless they are moving directly to an IP in CA; or directly off a dairy that is test negative via CDFA bulk tank surveillance; or the lot is test negative via serology and nasal swabs (30 per load). If serology is positive (immune competent but exposed) and swabs are negative, a permit for movement would be required. If nasal swabs are positive (shedding virus), movement would be restricted to an IP.
- **Engage in dairy quarantine release**
 - Weekly testing until released (initiated 60-days post detection with no clinical signs detected in the herd)
 - Document
 - Complete exit interviews
- **Manage surveillance for uninfected dairies** by testing conventional dairies every four weeks and raw milk dairies weekly until the state is disease-free. Transition to the national surveillance strategy thereafter.

Status

H5N1 virus load is high in the Central Valley but beginning to wane as bird migration (threat to poultry) ends for the season and dairy herd (threat to poultry and uninfected dairies) immunity develops.



CALIFORNIA DAIRY PRODUCER GUIDE TO INTRASTATE HPAI CATTLE MOVEMENTS FOR DAIRIES WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

Permit Desk Open 7 days a week!

Hours: 8am to 5pm

Phone: (909) 247 8789

Email: sfspermits@cdfa.ca.gov

Is the Premises Infected with HPAI?

NO

YES

No, receiving calves from IP

Non-Infected Premises (Includes Premises Released From Quarantine)

Tests to qualify for movement must be done at a NAHLN laboratory

All lactating cows (unless direct to slaughter):

- Negative individual cow test from all 4 quarters within 7 days of movement (up to 30 cows in shipment); or
- From dairy under CDFA bulk tank surveillance

Springers/close up dry cows moving outside Central Valley:

- Negative serology and nasal swabs within 7 days of movement (up to 30 cows in shipment); or
- Directly from dairy under CDFA bulk tank surveillance

Infected Premises (IP)

No Movement Restrictions:

- Open heifers, feeders, bulls that are >85 days old
- Non-lactating cull cows (no dripping teats, at least 10 days post last milking) going through a market - require green tags for slaughter only (CDFA will enforce at markets)

Calves ≤85 days old (unless direct to slaughter):

- Move under biosecurity and traceability requirements to calf ranch
- includes handling of raw milk/colostrum, heat treating milk or the use of milk replacement

Lactating cows and cows within 30 days of calving (Springers/Dry Close Ups):

- All movements by permit only
- No markets unless special sale day and cleaning and disinfection following the special sale

Calf Ranch Receiving from IP

Calves ≤85 days old:

- Biosecurity to include traffic control to minimize cross contamination, disinfection (people, equipment, and vehicles), C&D truck and trailer upon unloading
- Biosecure handling of raw milk/colostrum, heat treating milk or the use of milk replacement
- Movements prior to 85 days require permit

Calves >85 days old:

- No permit required for movements off calf ranch

***Direct to Slaughter – must be transported directly to a slaughter plant without stopping to unload while en route and must not enter a terminal feedlot.**

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 3, section 830 (a)(11) "directly" means moved in a means of conveyance, without stopping to unload while en route.

CATTLE HAULERS – CONDITIONS FOR ALL INFECTED PREMISES MOVEMENTS:

- Must avoid poultry premises
- Cannot mix infected and non-infected cattle in the same load (exceptions apply)
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols for vehicles and equipment



Disclaimer: This decision tree is a simplified representation of HPAI cattle movement regulations. For complete and up-to-date information, please consult official state and federal guidelines.



CENTRAL VALLEY DAIRY CATTLE MOVEMENTS

Permit Desk Open 7 days a week!
Hours: 8am to 5pm
Phone: (909) 247 8789
Email: sfspermits@cdfa.ca.gov



QUARANTINE DAIRY (Infected Premises – IP)

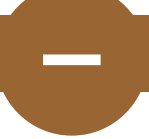
Calves → Direct to slaughter
→ Calf ranch following CDFA Order of Required Actions

Open heifers, feeders, bulls (>85days) → Free to move*

Springers, lactating, dry close-up cows → Direct to slaughter**
→ Another quarantine dairy (IP)

Cull cows → Direct to slaughter**
→ To slaughter via market → must green tag
Hold until no drip and 10 days dry

Other emergency movement → Direct to slaughter** or euthanize and render



DAIRY NOT QUARANTINED (CDFA Test Negative via Bulk Tank)

Cull cows mixed at markets with IP cull cows → Direct to slaughter**

Springers → Must stay within the central valley unless sold on a separate sale day with biosecurity and testing

All other classes of Cattle → Free to move*



HERDS WANTING TO MOVE COWS OUTSIDE CENTRAL VALLEY

Lactating → Negative CDFA bulk tank surveillance or individual cow milk test of all functional quarters within 7 days prior to move*

Springers → Negative serology + negative nasal swabs (30/load) within 7 days prior to move → free to move*
→ Positive serology + negative nasal swabs → **PERMIT REQUIRED**
→ Positive nasal swabs → **PERMIT REQUIRED** and may only be moved to IP

Calves, open heifers, feeders, bulls, culled dry cows → Free to move*

LEGEND

→ **PERMIT REQUIRED**

*If leaving CA, must also meet USDA and destination state requirements

**direct to slaughter means direct to slaughter facility without stopping to unload while en route

Southern California

Limit spread

- Continue **epidemiological analysis** and **reporting**.
- **Support H5N1 research studies**, including internal epidemiological risk analysis, and promote data sharing.
- **Manage poultry cases** in accordance with national standards.
- **Support poultry biosecurity** to mitigate wild bird risk AND risk from dairies, assuming every dairy poses a threat.
 - Provide technical assistance as requested.
- Manage movement to **reduce the risk of spreading the virus within and out of the region** and **minimize the threat that infected dairies pose to poultry operations**.
 - Feedlots and dairies are generally not geographically co-located, making movements to Imperial Valley feedlots less concerning.
 - Focus on **building buffer zones** around dense dairy regions where possible.
 - **Manage calf movement off an IP** through 85 days of age via quarantine biosecurity and traceability requirements IF they *MAY* be co-mingled with animals returning to dairy farms, particularly those out of region.
 - **Limit movement of lactating cows and springers from IPs** via quarantine biosecurity, movement control, and traceability requirements – no intermingling with cattle that may not be going direct to slaughter or an IP.
 - **Manage dairy movement through markets** to **reduce potential spread** by separating IP sales from unaffected sales, with IP sales restricted to slaughter-only cattle.
- **Postpone fairs and shows that include dairy or poultry.**
- Manage surveillance for uninfected dairies by **testing** conventional dairies every 2-4 weeks and raw milk dairies weekly until the State is disease-free. Transition to the national surveillance strategy thereafter.

Status

In Southern California, several regions are negative with limited spread outside an infected area. There are both poultry and dairy cases.

