



CDQAP ADVISORY: Private Non-Accredited Lab Offering Producers Cow and Worker Testing for HPAI

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Over the last several weeks there have been numerous reports from California producers that a sales associate from the private diagnostic laboratory [Farm Vet Dx](#) has contacted them offering testing for HPAI in dairy cattle and dairy workers.

Producers have reported being left with the impression the sales associate was explaining that USDA was going to halt milk pick up from farms unless they can prove their animals are HPAI negative. Producers have reported being told that the associate's laboratory can perform the necessary testing to allow them to keep them shipping.

Three facts producers should consider before contracting HPAI services with a private lab:

- [Farm Vet Dx](#) is an actual private veterinary laboratory located in New Orleans, and holds a number of human lab accreditations. Critically however the lab is not accredited through the National Animal Health Laboratory Network ([NAHLN](#)). Up to now the only H5N1 laboratory testing USDA has been willing to [fund](#) has been that from NAHLN accredited labs.
- As a result of [legislation](#) passed in 2022, in California veterinary labs offering services related to emergency or regulatory conditions must be certified by CDFA. Farm Vet Dx is not certified to offer these services in California.
 - *any "laboratory providing services in the examination, diagnosis, analysis, testing, quantifying or identification of any emergency or regulatory condition of poultry or livestock owned or located within California must be certified with CDFA".*
- Since the lab holds certification in neither the federal NAHLN program nor certification in California, CDFA will not consider any lab results (either positive or negative) when making regulatory decisions.

There are no CDFA, USDA or FDA programs that require that a herd test HPAI negative in order to continue to market milk.



We urge producers to remain cautious when contracting private lab services for HPAI testing.

As always, we are grateful for the continued collaboration and support from our regulatory, industry and academic partners.

Michael

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