



# Policy Update

**April 19, 2024**

## **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in South Dakota Dairy Herd**

On April 11, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) and the Animal Industry Board (AIB) announced that they had received confirmation from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) of the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza in a dairy cattle herd in South Dakota. This is the first confirmed case of HPAI in a dairy operation in South Dakota.

At this stage, there is no concern about the safety of the commercial milk supply or risk to consumer health. Dairies are required to ensure only milk from healthy animals enter the food supply chain. Additionally, the pasteurization process of heating milk to a high temperature ensures milk and dairy products can be safely consumed, as confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In line with long-standing policy, the CDC does not recommend consuming unpasteurized milk or raw milk. Pasteurization has continually proven to successfully inactivate bacteria and viruses, like influenza, in milk.

USDA, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as state veterinary and public health officials, continue to investigate the emerging illness among dairy cows that is causing decreased lactation, low appetite and other symptoms.

## **Agriculture Emissions Fall to Lowest Levels in 10 Years**

America's farmers and ranchers are leading the way in greenhouse gas emission reduction through voluntary conservation efforts and market-based incentives. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the [Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2022](#). The report shows American agriculture reduced emissions by almost 2% from 2021 to 2022, the largest decrease of any economic sector.

American Farm Bureau Federation economists analyzed the data and noted that United States agriculture represents just under 10% of total U.S. emissions when compared to other economic sectors. By EPA's own methodology, emissions from agriculture totaled 634 million metric tons in CO2 equivalents, or 9.99% of all U.S. emissions, during 2022. This represents a decrease of 1.8%, or 12 million metric tons, from 2021. 2022 also marks the lowest U.S. agricultural greenhouse gas emissions since 2012.

To read the full market intel, please click [here](#).

## **SD State Fair Will Officially Open One Day Earlier for 2024**

The Legislative Rules Review Committee approved a request from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to extend the length of the State Fair. The State Fair will now officially begin on Wednesday instead of the traditional Thursday. The reason for the extension is to accommodate the need for flexibility particularly when it comes to livestock shows. Because Wednesday will now be an official day of the State Fair, weeklong admission to the fair for adults will increase from \$40 to \$50, and weeklong admission for children between 6 and 15 years old will increase from \$20 to \$25. Prepaid family value packs, which include four adult passes, will increase from \$130 to \$160. Camper packages also increased by \$30 for each package.

For more information, please click [here](#).

**Contact for Questions**

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