# APHIS National Milk Testing Strategy for Influenza A, H5 in Dairy Cattle

I.   Strategy Overview

The APHIS National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) provides surveillance and response guidance for influenza A H5 (hereafter, "H5") in dairy cattle. The overall goal of the strategy is to eliminate H5 in U.S. dairy cattle and focuses on testing bulk milk of dairy herds. The strategy currently applies to States in the contiguous United States. Stages within may occur concurrently throughout the country based on each State's situation. Sampling schemes in each stage are flexible based on each State's resources and industry.

Overview of the National Milk Testing Strategy: State Statuses and Progression toward HPAI H5 Elimination in U.S. Dairy Cattle
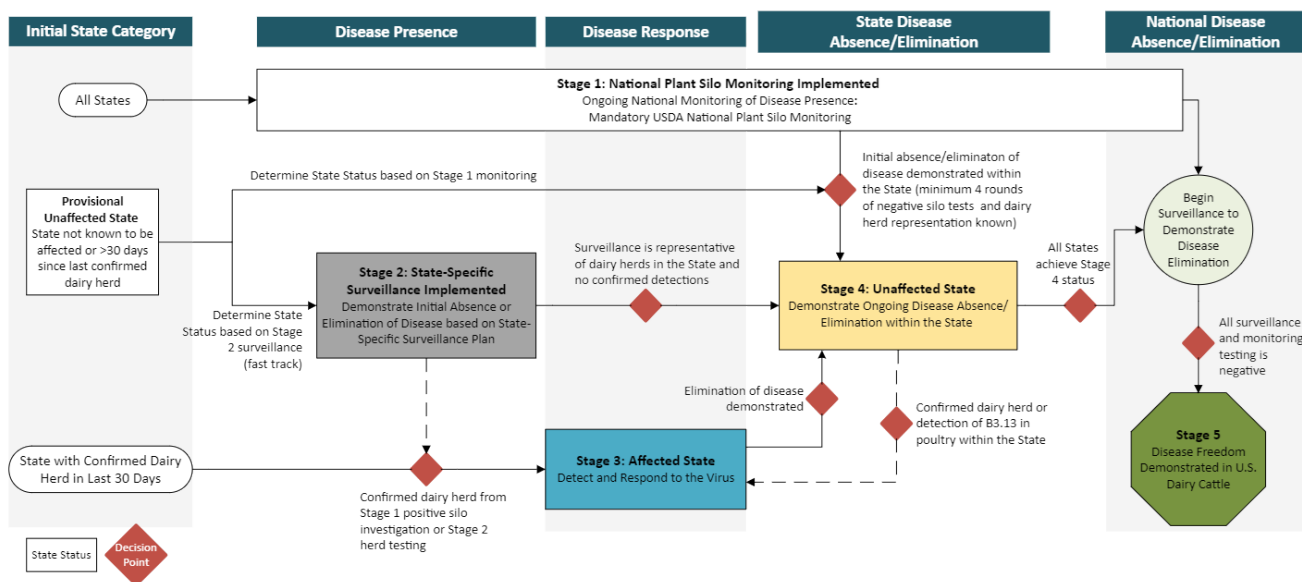
Stage 1: Standing Up Mandatory USDA National Plant Silo Monitoring

- Provisional Unaffected State progresses to Unaffected (stage 4) status after at least 4 rounds of monthly testing with negative results, if silo sampling is representative of dairy herds in the State
- Positive test results trigger additional State investigation

Stage 2: Determining a State's H5N1 Dairy Cattle Status

- Option to implement a State-specific surveillance plan for State to quickly progress from Provisional Unaffected to Unaffected status ("fast track" option to progress to stage 4)
- A confirmed dairy HPAI case moves a State to stage 3, all-negative States move to stage 4

Stage 3: Detecting and Responding to the Virus in Affected States

- Quickly identify herds, implement rapid response measures (e.g., enhanced biosecurity, contact tracing) and surveillance in States with detections to eliminate the virus from affected herds
- Affected States work toward Unaffected status as virus is eliminated and progress to stage 4

Stage 4: Demonstrating Ongoing Absence of H5 in Dairy Cattle in Unaffected States
- Utilize representative serial sampling and a phased approach for sampling frequency
- Affected States/herds return to stage 3, Unaffected States contribute to stage 5

Stage 5: Demonstrating Freedom From H5 in U.S. Dairy Cattle
- After all States progress through stage 4, begin sampling to demonstrate absence of disease in the United States using a risk-based surveillance strategy