



**COLORADO**  
Department of Agriculture

Justification of emergency rules for the control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle.

The Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture finds that immediate adoption of these rules is imperatively necessary for preservation of public health, safety or welfare and that compliance with the rulemaking requirements of section 24-4-103, C.R.S., would be contrary to the public's interest.

Specifically, the Commissioner finds that HPAI is caused by an Influenza A virus that can infect poultry and wild birds, especially waterfowl, and dairy cattle. HPAI is a contagious and economically devastating disease that causes severe illness or death in poultry - such as chickens, turkeys, and ducks - and loss of production and illness in dairy cattle. Since the initial detection of HPAI in dairy cattle in March 2024, the virus has spread from dairies to other dairies and poultry operations.

Therefore, it is necessary to establish this emergency rule requiring testing of dairy cattle to protect these industries.

