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Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Re: Restriction of Movement of Cattle into North Carolina from Affected Dairy Herds – Emerging Disease Situation

An unknown disease affecting dairy cattle causing 1) low appetite, 2) decreased lactation, 3) thickened or colostrum-like milk, and 4) other variable clinical signs was identified in Texas in February 2024. This disease has now appeared in Kansas, New Mexico, Idaho, and Michigan and movement of cattle from Texas affected herds has been linked to the cases in Idaho and Michigan. Herds with these signs have tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the milk and/or individual cows.

Under the authority granted in NC General Statute § 106-400 and 02 NCAC 52B .0201, no cattle from an affected herd, as described above, originating from a US state or territory shall be allowed to move into North Carolina until further notice. If any cattle from an affected premises exhibit these signs, all cattle on that premises shall be restricted.

As FDA in collaboration with the USDA has determined that there is 'no concern about the safety of the interstate commercial milk supply because products are pasteurized before entering the market' and 'only milk from healthy animals is authorized for distribution into interstate commerce for human consumption', there are no restrictions on milk products.

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