

LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION
Weber County, Utah

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 53-2a-208 authorizes the Weber County Board of Commissioners to declare a local state of emergency by proclamation upon finding that a disaster has occurred, or that the occurrence or threat of a disaster is imminent, within the County, and that the County requires additional assistance to supplement its response and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2026, the State Veterinarian notified Weber County that a sample from a dairy in Weber County, Utah tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPA); and

WHEREAS, this pathogen can cause severe milk production loss and has impacted approximately five of the nine dairy farms in Weber County with the possibility of a spread to additional dairy cattle; and

WHEREAS, personal protective equipment and bio-security measures must be implemented on infected farms; and

WHEREAS, the quarantine of animals and continued monitoring requires up to 90 days to be removed from infected herds; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude and cost of the loss of milk production is expected to be extensive for the dairy farms affected, the dairy farmers in Weber County have asked that the County declare a State of Emergency to allow for federal agriculture resources to support and assist with recovery and to enable access to state agricultural disaster assistance, including the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL) program; and

WHEREAS, the Utah State Veterinarian from the Office of Agriculture and Food, the Agricultural Extension Specialist from USU Agricultural Extension Office in Weber County, and the Weber County Farm Bureau, on behalf of the dairy farmers within Weber County have requested a declaration of a State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, these circumstances constitute a disaster within the meaning of Utah Code § 53-2a-102 and warrant declaration of a local state of emergency under Utah Code § 53-2a-208; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Weber County Board of Commissioners hereby finds and proclaims as follows:

- (1) There has been an outbreak of a highly pathogenic avian influenza among dairy cattle in Weber County; and
- (2) Four of the County's nine dairy farms have been impacted with the potential for further spread; and
- (3) The confirmed infections in these dairy farms, quarantine and biosecurity measures, cattle illness and mortality, and significant milk-production losses will result in substantial economic loss to the affected producers; and

- (4) These conditions have resulted in a disaster within Weber County, and the occurrence or threat of further disaster within Weber County is imminent; and
- (5) The magnitude and cost of responding to and recovering from these losses are in excess of Weber County's available resources, and the County requires additional assistance to supplement its response and recovery efforts;
- (6) A local state of emergency is hereby declared for Weber County, effective immediately; and
- (7) This declaration constitutes official recognition that a disaster exists, provides a legal basis for requesting and obtaining mutual aid and state and federal disaster assistance, activates the response and recovery aspects of applicable local emergency plans, and is intended to enable affected producers to seek state agricultural disaster assistance, including the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL) program;
- (8) Unless earlier terminated or extended by the Weber County Board of Commissioners, this declaration expires upon the earlier of the Board's finding that emergency conditions no longer exist or 30 days from the date hereof, in accordance with Utah Code § 53-2a-208(6).

DATED this 21st day of July, 2026.

BOARD OF WEBER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Gage Froerer, Weber County Commission Chair

ATTEST:

Ricky Hatch, Weber County Clerk