

**COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
EMERGENCY ORDER
2026-07**

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2026, through Executive Order 26-202, the Governor of the State of Florida declared that Hurricane Isaias (formerly Tropical Depression Nine) was forecasted to intensify into a hurricane and to threaten the State with severe weather, and declared a state of emergency for twenty-five counties; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida, pursuant to Executive Order 26-202, Section 4., finds that the special duties and responsibilities resting upon some state agencies in responding to the emergency may require agencies to suspend the application of the statutes, rules, and orders that state agencies administer; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 26-202, Section 4., Subparagraph B., authorizes state agencies to suspend the effect of any statute, rule, or order that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay action necessary to cope with this emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 585.08(2), Florida Statutes, provides that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry is authorized to adopt, amend, repeal and enforce rules “Governing the introduction of animals into or within the state, which rules, when deemed necessary by the department, may require that all animals moved into the state be covered by an official certificate of veterinary inspection and requisite test chart approved by the chief livestock regulatory official of the state or country of origin; . . .”; and

WHEREAS, Section 585.145(2), Florida Statutes requires in pertinent part, “No animal shall be imported into the state, moved within the state, or the ownership thereof transferred within the state without the owner, broker, or transferor first obtaining such health tests, official certificates of veterinary inspection, or other certificates and documents as shall be required by rules adopted by the department. Evidence of compliance with this subsection shall accompany the owner or agent having jurisdiction of such animals imported, moved intrastate, or to which ownership is being transferred. . . .”; and

WHEREAS, Rule Chapters 5C-3, 5C-4, 5C-18, 5C-29, and 5C-31, Florida Administrative Code, set out the intrastate and interstate movement requirements for animals; and

WHEREAS, Rule 5C-30.002, Florida Administrative Code, requires in pertinent part:

(1) Any person importing animals into the State of Florida or moving animals within the state is subject to inspection by a Department representative to determine whether the animal has the appropriate health documentation as provided in Chapters 5C-3 and 5C-4, F.A.C., and Section 585.145, F.S., shows signs of illness, or is deceased.

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(c) . . . The transporter, owner or operator transporting animals into or within the state is responsible for ensuring that each animal moved into or within the state is accompanied by the appropriate health documentation.

(2) The department may refuse entry into the state or quarantine, any animal that is not accompanied by the appropriate health documentation, any animal showing signs of illness, or dead animals.

(3) Where any health documentation for an animal being transported into or within the state is missing or inadequate, . . . the Department representative shall follow the procedures outlined in Table I, Rule 5C-30.003, F.A.C., in determining the appropriate action for a violation. In addition to refusal of entry or quarantine, the Department may issue Advisory Notices or impose administrative fines in accordance with Table I, Rule 5C-30.003, F.A.C.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the powers and authorities conferred by Article IV, Section 4, Florida Constitution, and Executive Order 26-202, I hereby declare the following:

- (1) Subject to the limitations set forth in this order, intrastate movement requirements for the transportation of animals fleeing any Florida county that is under a state of emergency due to potential impacts of Hurricane Isaias (formerly Tropical Depression Nine) are hereby suspended, excluding all requirements regarding the movement of Cervidae, which remain in effect.
- (2) As set forth below, interstate movement requirements for animals fleeing any county in Alabama, Georgia, or Mississippi that is under a state of emergency due to potential impacts of Hurricane Isaias (formerly Tropical Depression Nine) and for animals returning to their origination point within such a county are hereby suspended, excluding all requirements regarding the movement of Cervidae, Emergency Rule 5CER26-13 (Temporary Restrictions on the Importation of Dairy Cattle), and Emergency Rule 5CER26-15 (Interstate Import Requirements for Warm-Blooded Animals Originating from Areas Impacted by New World Screwworm), which all remain in effect.

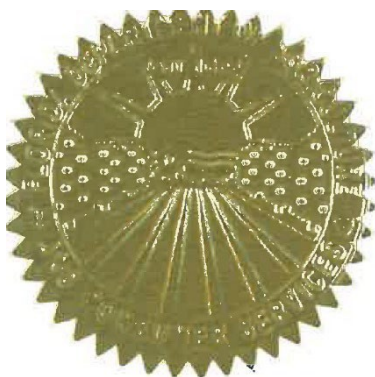
Specifically, the requirements for animals to be accompanied by an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI), identification, or other documentation while being transported intrastate or moving interstate from Alabama, Georgia, or Mississippi to Florida as set forth in the statutes and rules that follow are hereby suspended. All other provisions of law and rule remain in effect.

- (a) Section 585.145, Florida Statutes, requiring animals being transported within or imported into Florida be accompanied by an OCVI and required health documentation;
- (b) Rule 5C-3.002, Florida Administrative Code, requiring animals be accompanied by an OCVI, owner-shipper statement, prior permission number, and/or permit for movement of restricted animals during importation to Florida;
- (c) Rule 5C-3.003, Florida Administrative Code, requiring equines be accompanied by an OCVI, prior permission number, and/or proof of negative equine infectious anemia test during importation to Florida;
- (d) Rule 5C-3.004, Florida Administrative Code, requiring cattle and bison be accompanied by an OCVI, owner-shipper statement, official individual identification, and/or proof of meeting testing requirements during importation to Florida;
- (e) Rule 5C-3.005, Florida Administrative Code, requiring goats and sheep be accompanied by an OCVI, official individual identification, prior permission number, and/or proof of meeting testing requirements during importation to Florida;
- (f) Rule 5C-3.007, Florida Administrative Code, requiring swine be accompanied by an OCVI, prior permission number, owner shipper statement, and/or proof of meeting testing requirements during importation to Florida;
- (g) Rule 5C-3.012, Florida Administrative Code, requiring domestic fowl, poultry, ratites,

- and poultry products, be accompanied by an OCVI, prior permission number, and proof of meeting testing requirements during importation to Florida;
- (h) Rule 5C-3.015, Florida Administrative Code, requiring rabbits (lagomorphs) be accompanied by an OCVI during importation to Florida;
 - (i) Rule 5C-4.004(1), Florida Administrative Code, requiring poultry, domestic fowl, and ratites be accompanied by an OCVI during transport;
 - (j) Rule 5C-4.008(1), Florida Administrative Code, requiring equines be accompanied by an OCVI during importation to Florida;
 - (k) Rule 5C-18.010, Florida Administrative Code; requiring equines be accompanied by evidence of a negative equine infectious anemia test during transport;
 - (l) Rule 5C-29.002; Florida Administrative Code, requiring sheep and goats meet identification requirements during transport;
 - (m) Rule 5C-31.005, Florida Administrative Code, requiring cattle have official individual identification during transport; and
 - (n) Rules 5C-30.002 and 5C-30.003, Florida Administrative Code, imposing penalties for violations of the referenced statutes and rules.
- (3) Any person transporting pets or livestock must stop at all Department Agricultural Inspection Stations en route and present any required movement documentation. A transporter who fails to provide the documentation required by the referenced rules will be issued an Advisory Notice, which must remain with the animals during transport to any premises in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, or Mississippi, and during the return trip to the original premises of origin.
- (4) When returning to a Florida premises of origin, if any disease test requirements are not met, the animal(s) will be quarantined to their Florida destination until the testing has been completed. An Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (Health Certificate) is not required if returning with any of the following: an Advisory Notice issued at a Department Agricultural Inspection Station, proof of Florida residency, or documentation demonstrating that the animal(s) being transported originated from Florida.
- (5) This suspension of transport requirements does not pertain to wildlife regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. In addition, it does not waive any laws or rules beyond those expressly waived within this order, nor does it authorize the violation of any state or federal laws or regulations enforced by another governmental entity.

THIS ORDER shall expire fifteen (15) days from the date of this Order unless extended or rescinded by the Commissioner of Agriculture or upon the expiration or rescission of Executive Order 26-202, or any further extensions thereof; whichever occurs first.

EXECUTED OCTOBER 8, 2026



A blue ink signature of Wilton Simpson, written in a cursive style.

WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE