



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

New Participant Information Packet



The National Poultry Improvement Plan - What is it?

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is a cooperative effort of the poultry industry and government to use technology as a way to keep poultry healthy around the country, establish standards for evaluating the health of poultry breeding stock and hatchery products and use common terminology for these standards. In exchange for agreeing to have birds regularly tested for disease and their facilities inspected, participants in the program receive certificates that demonstrate their poultry or poultry products are disease free, making it easier to sell products.

The program was created in response to disease that spread quickly through the poultry industry in

the late 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly what is known today as Pullorum Disease. This disease was once rampant in the poultry industry and outbreaks could kill 80 percent of the baby poultry infected.

Several states started pullorum testing programs in the early 1920s and before long, a few breeding flocks were being identified as free of pullorum. As news of the availability of better stock spread, breeders became overwhelmed with orders for baby poultry from all over the country. It was then more important than ever that stock be free of pullorum disease and that production be improved.

What types of birds are included in the NPIP?

Birds included in the NPIP are identified by subparts, as follows:

The non-commercial subparts are:

- B - Multiplier Egg-Type Chickens
- C - Multiplier Meat-Type Chickens
- D - Turkeys
- E - Waterfowl, Exhibition, Game Birds, and Backyard Flocks
- F - Ostrich
- G - Primary Egg-Type Chickens (Breeding)
- H - Primary Meat-Type Chickens (Breeding)

The commercial Subparts are:

- B - Commercial Table-Egg Layers
- C - Commercial Meat-Type Chickens
- D - Commercial Meat-Type Turkeys

In Washington, most poultry are in Subpart E – waterfowl, exhibition birds, game birds and backyard flocks.

Equally important was terminology. States having pullorum testing programs used their own criteria and terminology to identify the various levels of freedom from the disease. With the distribution of stock over a wide geographical area, it soon became apparent that nationwide criteria and common terminology for both breeding and disease control programs were needed.

The NPIP is meant to provide this – consistent criteria and common terminology. The provisions of the NPIP are changed from time to time to conform to the development of the industry and use new information as it becomes available. These changes are based upon recommendations made at the National Plan Conferences by official delegates representing participating flock owners, breeders, and hatchery owners from all cooperating states.

What diseases do you test for in NPIP?

The diseases tested vary by the subpart category, but in Washington, birds are primarily tested for:

- Pullorum-Typhoid
- Avian Influenza

Annual Pullorum Typhoid testing

For birds in Subpart E, the number of birds tested each year for Pullorum Typhoid depends on the number of birds in your flock. Flocks with 1,000 birds or more will have 10% of the flock tested for a maximum of 300 birds. Flocks with 30-999 birds will have 25% of their flock tested, or at least 30 birds. The minimum flock size for NPIP certification is 30 birds over 16 weeks of age.

Avian Influenza testing

During the annual NPIP certification, 30 birds will be tested for avian influenza. Bird owners can also participate in the H5/H7 Avian Influenza Clean Program, which will test 30 birds for the disease every 180 days. As long as federal funding is available, WSDA covers the cost of the avian influenza testing.

Annual premises inspection

As a participant, your premises will be inspected by a WSDA veterinarian annually. During the annual inspection the WSDA veterinarian will look at the sanitation of your poultry houses, hatching rooms, egg handling rooms, etc.

Annual records audit

As a participant of NPIP, a WSDA veterinarian will conduct an audit of your records for the birds purchased that year.

As a participant, you can only purchase birds from NPIP participants. The record audit verifies that you are only purchasing NPIP stock.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Constant health monitoring of your flock through regular testing.
- Reduced likelihood of introduction of disease into your flock: You buy only from NPIP participants or from flocks under an equivalent approved program.
- Ability to sell birds to other NPIP participants.
- Ability to participate in shows: The testing requirements have already been fulfilled. NPIP Pullorum-Typhoid Clean states must have negative test results on birds at shows and fairs in their state.
- Easier interstate travel: Participants may transport their birds on a VS Form 9-3, which they write themselves. Interstate mail-order shipment of poultry is allowed with a VS Form 9-3.

WHAT'S REQUIRED?

- Submitting this application.
- Regular disease testing.
- Record keeping. The first step is completing the application in this packet and returning it to WSDA Avian Health Program.
- Regular testing of your flock for disease, with testing intervals ranging from annually to every 6 months depending on testing programs in which you participate.