

NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN-NPIP FLORIDA NPIP PLAN

The NPIP is a voluntary program developed in 1935 to control and eradicate Pullorum disease and fowl typhoid. It is administered cooperatively by the USDA, state agencies and the poultry industry. Florida is classified as a US Pullorum-Typhoid Clean State. Over 95% of the US breeding and hatchery industry participates in the program. All commercial hatcheries and dealers must be BPIP participants in order to sell and/or transport chicks and eggs. Currently in Florida authorized testing agents are at all poultry exhibitions to inspect birds and test those not already tested. However in the near future all poultry going to public exhibition must be from US Pullorum-Typhoid Clean flocks (NPIP source) or have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days.

SALMONELLA: Salmonella is an intestinal bacteria of which there are over 2,000 different types.

Pullorum (caused by *Salmonella pullorum*) and fowl typhoid (caused by *Salmonella gallinarum*) are specific diseases of chicken and other poultry. The symptoms of pullorum, a bacterial disease, include white diarrhea, droopiness, ruffled feathers, pale comb and wattles, loss of appetite and high death loss. Pullorum and fowl typhoid are not only transmitted by close contact and contamination, but may be transmitted through the egg from the hen to the chick, bird to bird and by fecal contamination. These diseases have been eradicated in commercial flocks, but a reservoir may exist in backyard flocks, some wild birds, and smuggled birds. The poultry industry continues to monitor infection by testing and has required that all exhibition fowl be tested to insure control of the diseases.

An Authorized Agent is a person licensed by the state plan to perform pullorum tests. In the whole blood test performed in the field and at poultry exhibitions, a loop full of blood is taken from the wing vein with a needle/loop and is mixed with a drop of antigen on a glass plate at room temperature. The plate is tipped back and forth to continue to mix the serum and antigen. If no antibody is present in the blood, the stained antigen will remain homogenous or smooth for at least 2 minutes. If there is antibody present in the serum it will stick to the antigen and clump into little islands large enough to be visible within 2 minutes. A bird with a positive test is considered a reactor. In the event of a reactor(s) at an exhibition the reactor(s) will be identified and then all birds from this flock will be sent home. An authorized agent will make an appointment to test birds at the flock location. All reactors must be retested as well as the rest of the flock. At that time reactors must be submitted for cultures. The flock will be under quarantine until results are obtained from the laboratory.

The NPIP program consist of different subparts. One for commercial egg industry, one for commercial meat industry, one for commercial turkey and then Subpart E for waterfowl, exhibition and game birds. For individuals wanting to become a participant in the NPIP program an authorized agent needs to come and test 100% of the breeders in the flock. The breeder birds will be tested every year. After the initial test a test chart is completed along with a contract. Once I receive this paper work I apply for an NPIP number and then a card is sent out with this number on it for the participant. To renew participation in the NPIP program the flock needs to be tested annually.

To become an NPIP participant or to get more information about the program in Florida, contact: Jennifer Jennings-Glover – State NPIP Contact Representative

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