

# NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (NPIP)

*For the backyard flock owner*



## WHAT IS NPIP?

- Established in the 1930's, the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is a cooperative industry, state and federal program that focuses on improving the health and quality of poultry and poultry products throughout the United States. Initially, the program focused on eradication of *Salmonella pullorum*, a bacterial disease that caused up to 80% mortality in baby chicks. Later, the program was expanded to include testing and surveillance for *Salmonella typhoid*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma synoviae*, *Mycoplasma meleagridis* (turkeys), and Avian Influenza.
- This program provides surveillance testing for commercial poultry, backyard poultry, game birds, turkeys, waterfowl, and exhibition poultry.
- In Alabama, the program is administered by the poultry staff of the Alabama Department of Ag & Industries, under the supervision of the State Veterinarian.

Information courtesy of: [www.poultryimprovement.org](http://www.poultryimprovement.org)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED & WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- NPIP is a voluntary program for poultry breeding flocks. Participants must have both male and female birds. There are two levels for backyard producers in Alabama to participate in:
  - 1 = Independent Flock: Producers may breed and sell adult birds. This includes show birds and game fowl.
  - 2 = Independent Hatchery: Producers may breed and sell adult birds in addition to selling fertile hatching eggs and/or baby chicks.\*There is no classification for individuals who purchase birds for the purpose of resale.
- If you choose to participate in the NPIP, you must have a healthy flock that is not exhibiting any clinical signs of illness.
- During the first visit, all species of adult birds (chickens, guineas, turkeys, quail, etc.) on the premises will be tested.



- After the initial visit, a sampling of your flock will be tested annually for *Salmonella pullorum*, *Salmonella typhoid*, and Avian Influenza. Additionally, if you desire "Avian Influenza clean" classification, testing for Avian Influenza is required every 6 months.
- After becoming an NPIP participant, all future bird purchases **must** be from other NPIP flocks.

## WHAT IS THE COST?

- Participation in the NPIP program is voluntary. Currently in Alabama, there is no charge to the individual.
- If you intend to produce and sell fertile hatching eggs and/or baby chicks, a hatchery permit is required. Currently, there is a \$10/year fee for the hatchery permit.

## ALABAMA DIVISIONS OF THE PROGRAM:

- SUBPART B: Commercial Egg Industry
- SUBPART C: Commercial Meat Industry
- \*SUBPART E: Exhibition and Game Birds  
*\*(backyard poultry)*
- SUBPART H: Primary Breeder Industry



## NPIP & YOU:

- The overarching goal of NPIP is to protect the *entire* poultry industry, backyard producers and commercial producers alike.
- Participation in the program encourages responsible poultry production in addition to preventing and/or controlling disease outbreaks that could be detrimental to both backyard and commercial poultry industries.
- Your voluntary participation in this surveillance program, in addition to establishing and upholding proper biosecurity protocols, is greatly appreciated!

## CONTACT US:

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