

National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Enrollment Instructions for Subpart 145E Non-commercial Hatcheries in Alabama

National NPIP website: www.poultryimprovement.org

National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

The AL Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) State Veterinarian's office acts as the Official State Agency (OSA) for the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and administers the program in AL in cooperation with USDA. The technical and management provisions of the NPIP have been developed jointly by industry members and state and federal officials. These criteria have established standards for the evaluation of poultry with respect to freedom from NPIP diseases. Enrollment in NPIP is voluntary but if enrolled, the standards of the program must be met.

Hatchery and Breeder Flocks

The National Poultry Improvement Plan was established in the early 1930s to provide a cooperative industry, state, and federal program through which new diagnostic technology can be effectively applied to the improvement of poultry and poultry products throughout the country. The development of the NPIP was initiated to eliminate Pullorum Disease caused by *Salmonella pullorum*, which was prevalent in breeder flocks and could cause upwards of 80% mortality in baby poultry. The program was later extended to include testing and monitoring for *Salmonella typhoid*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma synoviae*, *Mycoplasma meleagridis* (turkeys), and Avian Influenza.

Due to the success of the program, Pullorum and typhoid are now rare in commercial poultry, but there may be some spots of infection remaining in backyard/hobby poultry flocks. Alabama is one of many states which are classified as U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean, and to maintain this status, NPIP participants must be in compliance with the program, and there are requirements which ADAI must have in place for those importing and exhibiting birds. There are also other requirements to import and exhibit poultry, including avian influenza testing and health certification.

1. Inspections:

- a. Initial NPIP testing inspections by ADAI personnel are conducted after an application (3-4 form) for enrollment is received but before official enrollment.

Once the initial inspection is passed and the participant is enrolled, the hatchery is tested annually and may be inspected for sanitation, biosecurity, flock testing, and record-keeping compliance by ADAI inspectors. All supply flocks must meet the testing requirements for the hatchery to retain NPIP clean status and testing records must be available for the inspector. Additionally, breeder flocks located on a separate premises but supplying the participating hatchery will be inspected at least every 2 years to ensure compliance with NPIP standards.

For smaller hatcheries with breeder flocks on the hatchery site, the annual inspection will include the flock as well as the hatchery area.

The inspection is to ensure that poultry pens and buildings for brooding or holding the incubators/hatchers are kept clean; other birds, pests, and animals are kept away from the participating birds and the hatchery and brooding areas; testing is done as required; the participant has an understanding of implementing a biosecurity plan; and the proper forms are used as necessary for testing (laboratory submission form), interstate movement (9-3 form), and recording new flock placement (9-2 form). If mixed species are on the premises and participating in NPIP, waterfowl should be physically separated from gallinaceous birds (chickens, turkeys, game birds) and the biosecurity plan for the premises should address species separation. All non-participating domesticated fowl and their eggs shall be kept separate from the NPIP flock or these birds shall also be properly tested to meet the same standards as the participating flock.

b. The records of all flocks maintained primarily for production of hatching eggs shall be examined and records shall include:

- * VS Form 9–2, “Flock Selecting and Testing Report” (for breeder flock placement/PT rapid plate testing);
- * VS Form 9–3, “Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, and Poults” (please note that there is an online method of creating and submitting 9-3 forms through the NPIP database);
- * Set and hatch records;
- * Egg receipts;
- * Egg/chick orders or invoices; and
- * Laboratory testing records.

c. Records should be maintained for at least three years.

d. Requirements for a successful testing and inspection are included in the NPIP Provisions and Program Standards.

2. Testing requirements for NPIP Pullorum-typhoid Clean (Subpart 145E):

a. All sample collection for testing must be performed by a Veterinary Medical Officer or animal health technician employed by ADAI or USDA.

b. To qualify your hatchery/flock as Pullorum-typhoid Clean, all poultry four months of age and older (or upon sexual maturity – if earlier – for game birds), must be test-negative for Pullorum-typhoid (maximum of 300 birds). Flock testing should be performed soon after the birds reach test-eligible age. Once qualified, the flock must be tested annually for Pullorum/typhoid. All non-participating domesticated fowl and their eggs shall be kept separate from the NPIP flock or these birds shall also be properly tested to meet the same standards as the participating flock.

c. All birds tested for Pullorum-typhoid must be identified with an official state leg band provided by ADAI unless tested with the rapid plate test. If the rapid plate test is used for testing of breeder flocks, all reactors must immediately be banded with an official state leg band and a blood sample submitted immediately to an NPIP-approved laboratory.

d. If a Pullorum-typhoid suspect is identified at the lab, the flock is placed under quarantine. To end the quarantine, the suspect bird can be sampled by a ADAI official 21-30 days after the first official test, and the blood tested at the lab, or the bird can be submitted within 10 days to the lab for testing.

The Pullorum-typhoid screening test can react with other salmonellas, so a clean environment for the birds is essential.

e. A participant must meet testing and inspection requirements with all poultry supplying eggs to the hatchery.

3. Testing requirements for NPIP H5/H7 Avian Influenza (AI) Clean (Subpart 145E):

a. Only breeder flocks in compliance with the Pullorum-typhoid Clean program are eligible for this program.

b. Flocks enrolled in Subpart 145E must be tested for AI as per the Provisions **at least once every six months.** The birds tested must be a random, representative sample of the flock and each species, pen, and house must be represented. At sample collection, the entire flock must be observed for health issues. A minimum of 30 birds or all birds (if fewer than 30 birds in the flock) 4 months of age and older must be tested.

Any non-NPIP poultry on the premises for personal use shall also be included in AI testing.

c. If a suspect is identified on an official test at the lab, the flock is placed under quarantine pending confirmatory testing. If the results are confirmed, to end the quarantine, a minimum of 30 birds are swabbed for virus by ADAI officials, and if the tests are negative the flock is released from quarantine.

4. Adding new birds or hatching eggs:

a. All hatching eggs hatched in the NPIP hatchery must come from a current NPIP flock with the same or higher status than the hatchery. An NPIP hatchery may not custom hatch eggs from a non-NPIP source.

b. Any birds added to the breeder flock from another source must come from a current NPIP flock or be Pullorum-typhoid tested negative before bringing into the flock. New additions should be isolated from the resident flock for several weeks to ensure good health before adding to the flock.

c. Find current NPIP participants in the national NPIP Directory:

<http://www.poultryimprovement.org/statesContent.cfm>

d. Any out-of-state NPIP birds or hatching eggs brought into AL must be accompanied by a NPIP 9-3 form and must meet all AL import requirements.

5. Biosecurity plan requirements:

The NPIP committee voted in June of 2018 to require approved biosecurity plans for all breeder flocks with 5,000 or more birds. NPIP Program Standard E outlines the 14 items required in a biosecurity plan. While plans are not required for breeder flocks with less than 5,000 birds, it is recommended that producers read over and implement as many of these steps as possible. These biosecurity principles can be used as tools to help prevent disease from entering your flock.

6. Enrollment procedures:

Small hatcheries for exhibition-type birds which hatch only eggs from the flock located at the site should enroll as an **“Independent”** participant. Backyard hatcheries for breeder flocks which hatch eggs from the flock onsite for the purpose of selling hatching eggs or chicks should enroll as a **"Backyard Hatchery"** participant.

To enroll your hatchery/breeder flocks in NPIP:

a. Contact the poultry division at ADAI – 334-240-6584, or Allie Grooms

– alana.grooms@agi.alabama.gov or 334-240-7315. You will receive an NPIP packet of information, an ADAI 3-4 Participant Agreement and Application form and a Premises Registration form (ADAI 3-5).

b. When you are familiar with the program requirements, and have your ADAI forms appropriately filled out, return the packet to the poultry office . Send your completed NPIP Application and Agreement for Participation, and the Premises Registration form to the poultry office. The application must be complete and accurate. Include all stock codes on your application. Stock codes are available from the NPIP website (poultryimprovement.org).

Mail to: Alabama Department of Ag and Industries
Poultry Unit
1445 Federal Drive
Montgomery, AL 36107

These may also be scanned and emailed to
robin.heath@agi.alabama.gov **-or-**
alana.grooms@agi.alabama.gov.

- c. If a biosecurity plan is required for your operation, develop a written plan following the 14 principles of Program Standard E, send it to the ADAI poultry office for approval, and consider having a voluntary biosecurity risk assessment done on your farm during your initial NPIP inspection. A biosecurity plan is recommended even if not required by NPIP.
- d. Once your application has been submitted to the ADAI poultry office, an inspector will be assigned your application to schedule for testing. Your inspector will contact you for the initial testing.
- e. After your testing has been completed, lab testing has been reported out, and all field forms have been returned to the poultry office, each participant will be assigned a permanent approval number by the USDA NPIP office. This number, prefaced by the numerical code of the State (64), will be the official approval number of the participant and should be used on each certificate, invoice, shipping label, or other document used by the participant in the sale of his or her products. The approval number shall be withdrawn when the participant no longer qualifies for participation in NPIP.

In Summary – to apply:

1. Review the NPIP Provisions, including the General Provisions and Subpart 145E provisions; and the Program Standards (including the sanitation and biosecurity sections).
2. Register your premises (ADAI 3-5 form)
3. Complete, sign, and submit the ADAI 3-6 form (application) and NPIP “Participant Agreement”(ADAI form 3-4.)
4. Schedule a testing inspection with the inspector.
5. Once you receive your NPIP number, apply with alana.grooms@agi.alabama.gov for a database user ID for using the electronic 9-3 forms.
6. Call the poultry office for any questions, 334-240-6584.