



National Poultry Improvement Plan
New Participant Information Packet

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Animal Health
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21410
(410) 841-5810



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What is the National Poultry Improvement Plan?



The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is a joint United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-State disease control program started in the 1930s to eliminate Pullorum disease caused by *Salmonella pullorum* bacteria which infects chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, gamebirds, waterfowl, pigeons, ratites, Psittacine and song birds.

Fowl Typhoid is an infectious disease caused by *Salmonella gallinarum*. The disease affects chickens, but has the ability to affect waterfowl, guinea-fowl, peafowl, gamebirds and turkeys.

Pullorum-Typhoid (PT) are spread by contaminated dust, litter, feed, water and other infected materials. Pullorum also is spread vertically from carrier hens to eggs, thus infecting the chicks. Pullorum became widespread during the 1930s as more and more chicks were shipped by mail. Upward of 80% of baby poultry died, and there was significant loss of productivity in adult birds due to the disease. Several states started PT testing programs, eliminating infected birds from their breeding poultry flocks and identifying PT- free flocks. Other states began to follow suit, resulting in a national network of disease-free poultry. Those cooperative efforts paid off and Pullorum and Typhoid rarely are diagnosed in the US today.

The NPIP program continues to develop and expand. In addition to PT testing, the modern NPIP tests for poultry diseases such as avian influenza, *Mycoplasma*, and other diseases. Modern poultry enthusiasts and industry members use the NPIP to protect and improve flock health and to sell disease-free poultry nationwide.

Beginning in 2017, all sellers of live poultry and hatching eggs in Maryland are required to participate in the NPIP program. Sales through authorized auction markets are exempt.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) uses the NPIP program as a tool to protect Maryland's poultry network.

Find more information on the national program at: poultryimprovement.org.

NPIP participation—What's in it for you?

- Monitors the health of your flock and provides certification through regular testing.
- Limits the likelihood of introduction of disease into your flock through purchasing of health-certified birds.
- Enables you to sell birds both inside Maryland and nationwide.
- Promotes interstate movement of poultry and the certification can be used as a promotional tool for your poultry business. Interstate mail-order shipment of poultry is allowed with a VS Form 9-3.
- Fulfills many exhibition requirements at poultry shows. This is useful, as NPIP Pullorum-Typhoid Clean states must have negative test results for birds at shows and fairs in their states.

What is required participate in the program?

The first step to becoming NPIP certified is to submit the application at the end of this packet. Once the application has been submitted and processed, the NPIP Administrator will contact you to set up an inspection and flock testing appointment.

Submit your completed application (below) along with check or money order for \$25 made out to MDA

Animal Health:

NPIP

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Animal Health

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The only disease testing required to participate in the NPIP is annual Pullorum-Typhoid (PT) testing. Other voluntary diseases included in MDA's NPIP program are avian influenza (AI), *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* (MG) and *Mycoplasma synoviae* (MS). These optional disease programs may require more frequent testing, depending upon the desired disease program. Further details of each disease program are provided on the next page.

In addition to annual PT testing, NPIP participants are required to do a few things in order to enjoy the benefits provided by the program:

1. Participants are required to have a current Maryland Poultry Premises Registration.
2. Participants are required to pass an annual flock and premises inspection.
3. Participants must retain 3 years of records of poultry purchases and sales using VS 9-3 forms (Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks and Poults). Periodic inspection of records by state officials may be conducted to verify compliance. Participants must submit VS 9-3 forms to the MDA within *seven days of poultry shipment or movement (free online reporting available)*.



Testing Programs and Costs

All participants may request annual Pullorum-Typhoid testing and voluntary program sample collection by MDA inspectors during the annual NPIP inspection. Our fees are listed below.

Alternatively, and for sampling required during the rest of the year for elected disease programs, NPIP participants may utilize Authorized Maryland Poultry Testing Agents (PTAs) to conduct all required and optional program tests/sampling. Please visit [Find a Poultry Tester](#) on the MDA Poultry Website to find an Authorized Maryland PTA in your area.



***Salmonella pullorum-Salmonella gallinarum* (PT) Testing—REQUIRED FOR NPIP**

Testing for *Salmonella* Pullorum is the cornerstone of NPIP participation and as such is mandatory for all participants annually. The on-farm test requires only a drop of blood for most poultry species. Turkeys must be tested using a laboratory blood test.

- Frequency: Annual
- Cost: \$0.50/bird
- Turkeys: \$1.50/bird (lab fee) + \$0.50/bird (collection fee)

Avian influenza—RECOMMENDED

Testing for avian influenza is a recommended additional program available to participants. This test requires an oral swab, which is submitted to an MDA Animal Health laboratory.

- Frequency: Every 6 months
- Cost: No cost during annual inspection. Must hire a PTA for midyear testing.

***Mycoplasma gallisepticum*—OPTIONAL**

Testing for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* is an optional additional program available to participants. This test requires blood to be collected by an MDA inspector and sent to an MDA Animal Health laboratory.

- Frequency: Every 3 months
- Cost: \$1.75/bird (lab fee) + \$0.50/bird (collection fee)

***Mycoplasma synoviae*—OPTIONAL**

Testing for *Mycoplasma synoviae* is an optional additional program available to participants. This test requires blood be collected by an MDA inspector and sent to an MDA Animal Health laboratory.

- Frequency: Every 3 months
- Cost: \$1.75 (lab fee) + \$0.50/bird (collection fee)

Additional fees

- Participation processing fee: \$25.00/year (includes annual NPIP inspection and one follow up visit)
- Call fee: \$17.00/each additional farm visit



Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health

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npip.md@maryland.gov | 410-841-5810

Maryland NPIP Application			
Owner Name:	Farm Name:	Poultry Premises Number:	
Premises Street Address:			GPS Latitude:
City:	State:	Zip Code:	GPS Longitude:
Phone:	Email:		

Flock Information						
Mailing Address (if different from above):						
Purpose of Flock (Check all that apply):						
<input type="checkbox"/> Live Poultry/Hatching Egg Sales <input type="checkbox"/> Hatchery <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition <input type="checkbox"/> Other List:						
Enter quantities:	Chickens	Turkeys	Waterfowl	Game birds	Ratites	Other
Males						
Females						

All Breeds in Flock by Type:

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Program Participation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pullorum-Typhoid (required)	<input type="checkbox"/> Avian Influenza (recommended)
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mycoplasma gallisepticum</i> (MG)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mycoplasma synoviae</i> (MS)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I agree to comply with the sanitation, testing, and recordkeeping requirements of the NPIP. 2. I agree to submit VS Forms 9-3 for every shipment of poultry products sold or transferred out of the State of Maryland. 3. I agree to purchase poultry only from certified NPIP members or to isolate new poultry and conduct NPIP testing prior to introducing them into my flock. 4. I also understand that, as a participant, I may exhibit my birds in Maryland and sell live poultry and hatching without further testing requirements within Maryland. I may also ship interstate without further testing, depending on the requirements of the state of destination. 5. I understand that the cost of participation in the NPIP program is \$25 annually for flocks and \$50 annually for commercial hatcheries. There may be additional fees associated with required testing. 	
<p>Send completed form along with payment for \$25 to: NPIP, Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21410</p>	

Owner's Signature	Date
MDA NPIP Coordinator Signature	Date