



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 MARYLAND EGG QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM
 50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
 Telephone (410) 841-5769
 Fax (410) 841-2750

**MARYLAND EGG QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM
 PRODUCER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

Flock Management/Name and Address	Flock or Complex/Name and Address
Contact: FID/EIN Number: Federal Premise ID Number: Telephone Number ()	Contact: Telephone Number ()

**IMPORTANT: IF ANY INFORMATION IS INCORRECT OR INCOMPLETE, PLEASE
 MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES ON THIS FORM.**

ORGANIZATION AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

- A. The program is supervised by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
- B. Representatives of the Department doing the supervision consist of personnel from Animal Health and Grading Services/Egg Inspection.
- C. The program is administered and coordinated by the Department. Representatives of the Department will work with other appropriate groups and individuals in the development and operation of the program.
- D. Any poultry producer in Maryland may participate in the program. Participation of flocks outside Maryland will be at the discretion of the Department.
- E. Procedures to be followed are based on specific protocols, as adopted by the Department.
- F. Operating protocols and other basic procedures may be modified by the Department.
- G. Participation in the program is voluntary and any participant may withdraw at any time.
- H. Participation in the program may be terminated by the Department if the participant does not comply with the "Conditions for Participation".

- I. If participants either voluntarily withdraw or are terminated by the Department, the participants will automatically fall under the Maryland regulations (both Health & Agriculture) dealing with Salmonellosis of poultry.
- J. Essential flock and testing information is considered confidential.
- K. Although the poultry house is the basic unit for the program operations, an entire complex shall be required to enter the program, for biosecurity purposes.
- L. Participation in the program offers no warranty, expressed or implied that eggs produced under this program are free of SE.
- M. Nothing in these conditions shall be or become the basis for a claim for damages of any nature whatsoever against representatives of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
- N. Representatives of the Department will conduct independent spot checking of compliance with program protocols to verify status and adequacy of testing.
- O. If a flock of any participant is implicated in a traceback from an egg-associated SE outbreak, Program testing results will be shared with the responsible government agencies.
- P. Participants agree that they or their representatives will be responsible for:
 - 1. Cooperation with program personnel in visits to their farms and in carrying out the prescribed monitoring and prevention procedures.
 - 2. Participating in training sessions on sample collection and SE prevention procedures.
 - 3. Paying for the cost of sampling supplies, culturing costs, training and the monitoring of the program to include semiannual visits to the flocks and the cost of taking monitoring samples by the Department. Where applicable and feasible routine semi annual visits to monitor flock records will be conducted by MDA graders during their regular tour of duty without additional cost to participants. Other participants will be billed for travel time and inspection time. Participants will be notified of rate increases at least 30 days prior to the change.
 - 4. Determining required dates for sample collection and collecting samples, in accordance with program protocols. Protocols cover testing of chicks, pullets, environments and eggs. Department personnel will provide needed assistance and training for sample collection within limits of available resources.
 - 5. Transporting samples to designated laboratories.
 - 6. Maintaining a standard log on a form approved by the MDA for each flock in the program.
 - 7. Diverting eggs to pasteurization or hard cooking if eggs are positive for SE. Records of diversion must be maintained by the participant for at least six months. Eggs may be returned to the table egg market only by following the appropriate program protocol.
 - 8. Cleaning and disinfecting layer or pullet houses to acceptable standards between flocks if the environment is SE positive.
 - 9. Maintaining adequate biosecurity and practicing good poultry management.

THESE CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MARYLAND EGG QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM FOR PRODUCERS HAVE BEEN READ AND HEREBY ACCEPTED BY:

**Individual authorized to approve and ensure participation
 in Maryland Egg Quality Assurance Program**

Date

Signature of MEQAP Program Manager

Date