

Managing the Plan Itself

In all, 48 U.S. States have Official State Agencies working with USDA–APHIS to manage the Plan. The NPIP **Technical Committee** is made up of Industry, State, and Federal members and meets biennially to provide oversight.

The NPIP has certified **130 authorized laboratories** nationwide to perform the various tests necessary to make sure that Plan flocks and premises are properly maintained. The rules on these matters are also listed in Title 9, CFR:

Blood Testing, and Serological Laboratory Protocols

§§ 147.1–147.9

Bacteriological Examination Procedures

§§ 147.10–147.17

Sanitation Procedures

§§ 147.21–147.25

As another service of the Plan, APHIS and the Official State Agencies give **hands-on workshops** for NPIP participants on such subjects as Salmonella Isolation and Identification, Diagnosis of Avian Mycoplasmas, and Diagnosis of Avian Influenza.

General Conference Committee

The NPIP's General Conference Committee assists USDA in planning, organizing, and conducting the biennial NPIP Conference. The Committee recommends whether new proposals should be considered by delegates to the Conference and—during the interim between Plan Conferences—represents the cooperating States in advising USDA with respect to administrative procedures and interpretations of the NPIP provisions in the CFR.

Committee members also help USDA evaluate comments received from interested persons concerning proposed amendments to the NPIP provisions. The Committee recommends to the Secretary of Agriculture any changes in the provisions of the Plan necessitated by unforeseen conditions when postponement until the next NPIP Conference would seriously impair the operation of the program. Finally, the General Conference Committee serves as a forum for the study of problems relating to poultry health and makes specific recommendations to the Secretary concerning ways in which USDA may assist the industry in solving these problems.

For More Information

To find out more about the NPIP and how you can participate in the Plan, please write to

National Poultry Improvement Plan
1498 Klondike Road, Suite 101
Conyers, GA 30094–5169

or call
(770) 922–3496

and be sure to visit our Web site:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/npip>

We look forward to hearing from you.

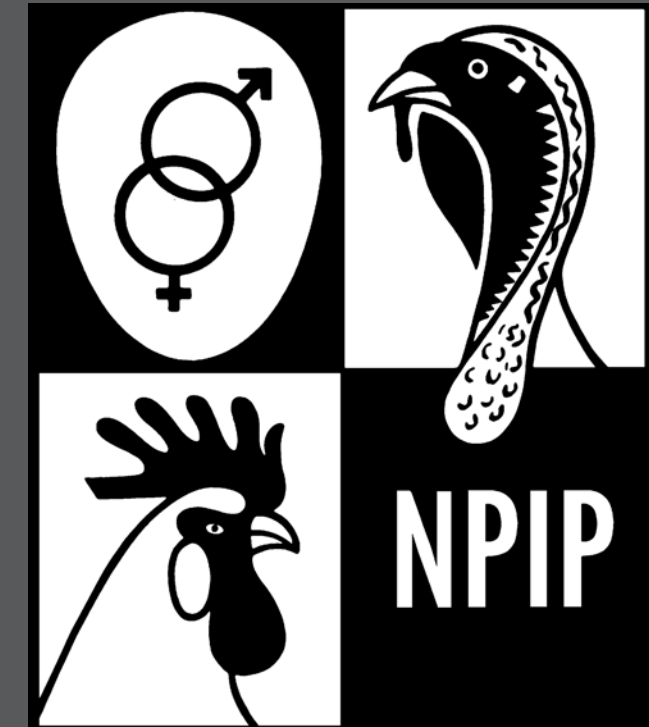
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National Poultry Improvement Plan: Seventy Years of Poultry Improvement



NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) was started in the early 1930s to coordinate State programs aimed at the elimination of pullorum disease from commercial poultry. Pullorum is a bacterial disease of poultry that is transmitted from a hen to her chicks via the egg. By testing adult birds and eliminating disease carriers from the breeding flock, commercial chicken and turkey producers have eliminated this costly disease.

The Objective of the NPIP . . .

. . . is to provide a cooperative Industry–State–Federal program through which new diagnostic technology can be effectively applied to the improvement of poultry and poultry products throughout the country. The provisions of the NPIP—both technical and management—have been developed jointly by industry members and State and Federal officials. These provisions establish standards for the evaluation of poultry breeding stock and hatchery products with respect to freedom from egg-transmitted and hatchery-disseminated diseases. Through this work, the NPIP provides certification that poultry and poultry products destined for interstate and international shipment are free of all such diseases.

Administration

The Plan is administered through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and “Official State Agencies” in each of the 48 participating States. Individual producers in the Plan all sign a memorandum of participation with their Official State Agency.

USDA–APHIS publishes the provisions of the NPIP in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at sections (§§) 145 and 147. When the rules of the Plan need to be revised, APHIS consults with producers and State poultry officials and submits all regulations to normal rulemaking procedures before publishing them in the CFR.

Participation

Participation in the NPIP is open to all producers who can make their poultry, game-bird, ratite, or waterfowl facilities meet Plan requirements. The first step is to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the applicant’s Official State Agency, that his or her facilities, personnel, and practices are adequate for carrying out the applicable provisions of the NPIP. Once accepted into the Plan, participants have to maintain in the Plan all of their poultry hatching-egg supply flocks and hatchery operations in a given State. When a Plan participant has flocks in one or more States, it is sometimes possible to reach a mutual understanding and agreement, in writing, between the participant’s own Official State Agency and the counterpart agency in the other State(s) regarding conditions of NPIP participation and supervision.

Although the NPIP has several classifications related to freedom from various diseases, the only *required* classification for Plan participation is “U.S. Pullorum–Typhoid Clean.”

NPIP participants are entitled to use on their packaging the NPIP emblem reproduced here:



NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This seal is a sign that the poultry products inside are safe and wholesome.

Inspections

The integrity of the NPIP is maintained through a system of random inspections managed by State cooperators. Each participating hatchery is inspected at least once a year to satisfy the Official State Agency that the operations of the hatchery are in compliance with the Plan’s provisions.

Recordkeeping is another important element in the Plan. The records of all flocks maintained primarily for production of hatching eggs are examined annually by a State inspector.

Supervision

The Official State Agency may designate qualified persons as “authorized agents” to do the sample collecting and whole-blood testing provided for in the CFR at Title 9, §145.14. The Official State Agency must employ or authorize qualified persons as State inspectors to (1) perform or supervise the performance of the testing of participating flocks and (2) perform the official inspections necessary to verify compliance with NPIP requirements.

Flock Provisions

Specific sanitation and bird-identification requirements for participating flocks can be found in the CFR at Title 9, § 145.5.

Hatchery Provisions

Specific sanitation requirements for participating hatcheries are listed in the CFR at Title 9, § 145.6.

Subpart Provisions for Participating Flocks, Hatcheries, and Dealers

The CFR section on the NPIP is divided into subparts by product:

B—Egg-Type Chickens

C—Meat-Type Chickens

D—Turkeys

E—Waterfowl, Exhibition Poultry, and Game Birds

Each participating hatchery is designated as a “National Plan Hatchery,” and each participating dealer as a “National Plan Dealer.”

The following terms and illustrative logos can be used only by (1) NPIP participants to describe their flocks and the products produced from them, and (2) States that have met the respective requirements of the Plan:

