



National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Flock Testing Requirements



Instructions for Authorized Agents for Blood Collection

Federal and Arizona State Standards

All NPIP participants are required to have flocks that are classified as U.S. *Salmonella pullorum-typhoid* (P-T) Clean.

Only NPIP flocks that meet the standards for Avian Influenza (AI) Clean will receive 100% indemnity in the event of an avian influenza outbreak.

Flock Requirements to meet P-T Clean Classification:

- Flocks must be officially tested every *12 months* with no laboratory confirmed reactors.
- 100% Flock test to qualify for Pullorum-Typhoid Clean Breeder Status - *all poultry on premises, no age restriction*
- Annual Follow-up Breeder Flock test to retain Pullorum-Typhoid Clean Breeder Status
- 100% breeding stock tested, including setters up to 300 birds.
- P-T testing in chickens, turkeys, and game birds.
- The male and female ration of tested birds must be the same as the male and female ratio of birds that are in the flock.
- All pens must be proportionately represented.

Antibiotics must not be given to poultry for 3 weeks prior to testing.

1. Bird species required to be P-T tested:

- Chickens
- Turkeys
- Game birds and exotic poultry

2. Bird species NOT required to be P-T tested:

- Waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans): *exempt* from P-T testing
- Pigeons: not included in the NPIP program and are exempt from all testing

3. Age requirements at the time of P-T testing:

- Chickens and turkeys are required to be at least *16 weeks* of age to be officially tested
- Game birds may be tested when 4 months of age or upon reaching sexual maturity.

Flock Requirements to meet AI Clean Classification:



- Flocks must be officially tested every *90 days* with no laboratory confirmed reactors.
- Required number of birds for AI testing: 30 max
- Regardless of the total number of birds in the flock

1. Age requirements at the time of AI Clean testing:

- All poultry must be at least *16 weeks* of age to be officially tested.

2. Bird species required to be AI Clean tested:

- Chickens
- Turkeys
- Game birds and exotic poultry
 - Pheasants
 - Guinea Fowl
 - Quail
 - Other Partridge
 - Pea Fowl
 - Chukar Partridge
- Water Fowl
 - Ducks
 - Swans
 - Geese

3. Bird species NOT required to be AI Clean tested:

- Pigeons: not included in the NPIP program and are exempt from all testing

4. AI Clean testing in all poultry species:

- The proportion of male and female birds tested must be the same as the proportion of male and female birds that are in the flock.
- All pens should be proportionately represented.

5. AI State testing to meet Arizona NPIP flock requirements

- Flocks will be randomly selected for AI testing based upon geographic location, disease surveillance, epidemiological risk, etc.
- Required number of birds for AI testing: 30 maximum.
- Regardless of the total number of birds in the flock.

6. Age requirements at the time of AI State testing:

- All poultry must be at least *16 weeks* of age to be officially tested.

Birds positive to the P-T field plate screening test

1. Call the office 602-542-4293 if there is a field plate screening test positive.
 - a. Pullorum-Typhoid is a Reportable Animal Disease to the State Veterinarian's Office.
2. If a bird has a positive test to the field plate screening test or the lab test, the bird is called a reactor.
 - a. These screening tests do not confirm the bird is or has been infected with Salmonella Pullorum or Fowl Typhoid, it is only a screening test for antibodies (proteins) in the blood which may be past exposure to these 2 diseases. Sometimes other types of Salmonella bacteria, other diseases, or other proteins in the blood cause this test to react, what we call "false positive" reactors.
3. For any positive plate screening tests, all birds are put under quarantine so that no birds can leave the home premises until we find out if the birds have the disease or not until further testing is complete.
4. ADA personnel will take blood from the reactor bird(s) and a more specific lab test is performed. This is **not** at the flock owners' expense.
5. Positive Lab test either: 1) the reactor bird is euthanized and the internal and reproduction organs are cultured looking for Salmonella pullorum or Salmonella typhoid bacteria. Cultures negative, then the quarantine is released and the flock is certified as Clean or negative. 2) The 2nd option is to wait 30 days and redo the lab blood test-this is in case it is not Pullorum• Typhoid, but something else causing the reaction, and giving the bird extra time to clear the non-Pullorum-typhoid proteins out of the blood. If the 2nd lab blood test is positive again, then the reactor bird will be euthanized and sampled for internal organ/reproduction salmonella cultures.
6. If the cultures grow Salmonella Pullorum or Typhoid bacteria. then that is the confirmation test. A quarantine is placed on the premises and testing of all of the birds on the premises will continue every 30 days until all birds test negative for 3 monthly tests in a row or all birds are voluntarily depopulated, depending upon the situation. It must be assured that the infected birds or contaminated equipment did not spread to the other birds in the flock or to other farms.

Birds positive to the Avian Influenza (AI) test

Avian influenza is a Reportable Animal Disease to the State Veterinarian's Office.

1. If a bird has a positive blood test (which looks for antibodies to AI or past exposure to AI) or if a bird has a positive PCR swab test (which looks for current infection-actual genetic pieces of the virus) - further testing must be done to confirm the test.
2. All birds are put under quarantine so that no birds can leave the premises until ADA determines if the birds have the disease or not. More blood and swabs may be collected from other birds.
3. The positive blood and/or PCR tests are sent to the USDA laboratory in Ames, IA. USDA will confirm the test- if it is AI positive or negative – and they will do further testing to determine what type of AI it is (H7N2, H5N2, etc.) and if it is Low-Path (mild version) or High-Path (severe form) of AI.
4. If USDA cannot confirm the tests are positive for AI, the quarantine is released.
5. If USDA confirms the tests are positive for **AI**- then it depends on the subtype of the AI virus infection, if it is Low-Path or High-Path, and if the flock is actively infected with AI or had a previous infection in the past. Essentially it is on a case- by- case basis on the outcome of the flock, whether it will be depopulated or not.

Risks associated with testing

1. Must allow for safety of ADA as well as maintain the bird's ability to breathe. Birds do not have diaphragms and require chest/abdominal expansion to breathe. Best to place birds in dorsal recumbency (on their backs) to afford the greatest ease of respiratory movement.
2. A bird's clotting system functions slowly in comparison to mammalian clotting systems. Following venipuncture, hold off the puncture site to prevent bruising.
3. Stress, shock, respiratory distress, heat, etc. are all potential known risks during procedures that may lead to injury and mortality.