COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLORADO AVIAN HEALTH TEAM INTERNSHIP

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National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) was initiated in 1935 with the goal of improving the safety and quality of poultry and poultry products across the United States.

Prior to the establishment of the NPIP, *Salmonella enterica* serotype Pullorum was reported in most parts of the United States and Canada. The bacterial disease causes severe diarrhea often followed by death, especially in younger birds. It can be transmitted vertically (from hen to egg) and horizontally (from bird to bird).

Today, NPIP testing focuses mainly on *Salmonella* Pullorum and *Salmonella* Gallinarum detection. Both diseases can be detected on the same patient-side agglutination test. Flock owners may also choose to test for certain species of *Mycoplasma* and for avian influenza.

Benefits of NPIP Participation

Participating in the NPIP can provide owners with valuable health monitoring, improves marketability, and helps meet state disease requirements.

- ✓ Confirms health status of the flock by routine testing.
- ✓ Demonstrates compliance with disease testing requirements, increasing buyer confidence.
- ✓ Can qualify birds for movement across state lines.
- ✓ Helps satisfy state requirements for Pullorum-Typhoid and Avian Influenza testing.
- ✓ Continued participation can make producers eligible for indemnity compensation if confirmed disease outbreak.

Biosecurity

As part of the NPIP certification flocks are required to be evaluated for bio secure practices that help reduce the risk of disease introduction and spread. Some include:

- ✓ Owning and utilizing designated flock footwear/foot baths.
- ✓ Having space to isolate new or returning birds before introducing to the rest of the flock.
- ✓ Cleaning feeders, waterers, and coops. Sanitizing all areas of the coop and equipment to minimize transfer of disease.
- ✓ Keeping sales and purchase records from NPIP flocks.

Swabbing for Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza (AI), commonly known as bird flu, is a highly contagious viral disease that affects both domestic and wild bird populations.

AI is caused by an influenza A virus and can range in severity depending on the strain and the species infected. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) causes severe disease and high mortality rates in poultry, often resulting in rapid loss of entire flocks. However, low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) generally causes mild or no clinical signs and is commonly found in wild bird populations.

While LPAI strains are typically less severe, they do have the potential to mutate into highly pathogenic forms when introduced to poultry. As part of a statewide surveillance effort, the CSU Avian Health Program swabs birds for avian flu at the time of NPIP certification.

Photos from the Field

Image 1:
Daniela performs a health check on a turkey at the Boulder County Fair.

Image 2:
Dani DeRousseau holds a chicken while Daniela collects a blood sample for Salmonella testing at an NPIP flock testing visit.

Image 3:
Ben Amerman holds a chicken while Gracie draws blood at a training event and NPIP flock testing visit.

Image 4: Dani (left), Gracie, Daniela, and Veronica on a trip to Delta, Colorado for NPIP testing.



Image 1



Image 2

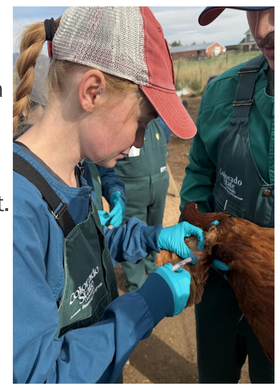
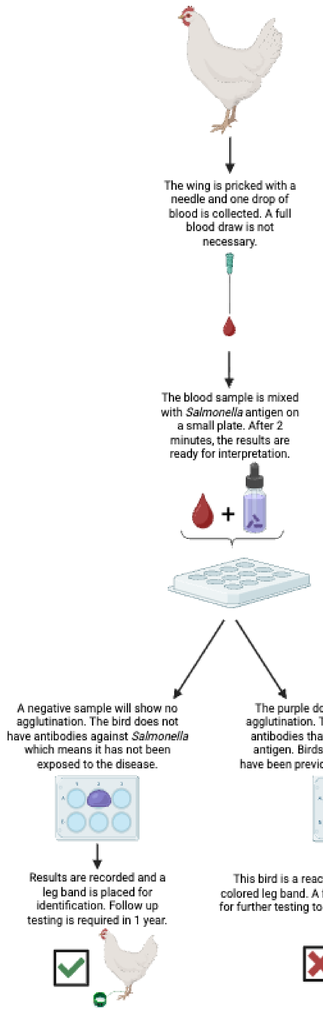


Image 3



Image 4

NPIP Testing Process



Sources

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