



STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH
ND Department of Agriculture
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Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) *Salmonella pullorum (S. pullorum) and Salmonella typhoid (S. typhoid)*Pullorum Testing** test Requirement for Show/Exhibition poultry

Definition of Exhibition Poultry from CFR 9: 145 subpart E

Exhibition Poultry. Domesticated fowl which are bred for the combined purposes of meat or egg production and competitive showing.

CRF 9: 145.53(3)(vii)

(vii) All poultry, including exhibition, exotic, and game birds, but excluding waterfowl, going to public exhibition shall come from U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean or equivalent flocks, or have had a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days of going to public exhibition.

What regulations are there for Pullorum testing show / exhibition birds for in North Dakota shows?

- All poultry **regardless of age** going to shows and/or public exhibit, *excluding doves and pigeons* must have a safe leg or wing band, **and**:
 - Come from an NPIP certified *Salmonella pullorum- Salmonella typhoid (PT clean)* clean flock. This means the flock the bird currently resides in is NPIP certified, or the bird was purchased from an NPIP certified flock in the current year and has not comingled with non-tested, non-NPIP birds
- OR**
- Have had a negative *Pullorum* test within 90 days prior to going to a show/exhibition

What is the NPIP?

The National Poultry Improvement Plan [NPIP | Animal Health](#) was established in the early 1930's to provide a cooperative industry, state, and federal program through which new diagnostic

technology can be effectively applied to the improvement of poultry and poultry products throughout the country.

The NPIP was initiated to help diminish the spread of Pullorum Disease, caused by Salmonella Pullorum which was rampant in the poultry industry and could cause upwards of 80% mortality in baby poultry. The program was later extended to include testing and monitoring for other poultry diseases. The program currently offers testing and monitoring for:

- Salmonella Pullorum (Causative agent of Pullorum disease)
- Salmonella Gallinarum (Causative agent of Fowl Typhoid)
- Mycoplasma gallisepticum
- Mycoplasma synoviae
- Mycoplasma meleagridis (for turkeys)
- Avian Influenza

For more information about Poultry diseases: [Avian Disease](#)

What is *Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella typhoid*?

- *Salmonella pullorum* (or otherwise more simply referred to as 'pullorum') and *Salmonella typhoid* are bacterial diseases which can produce significant mortalities, especially in young chicken, turkey and game bird flocks. Transmission occurs primarily through the egg but also occurs via direct or indirect contact with infected birds.
 - *S. pullorum* and *S. typhoid* are both covered by doing just 1 test.

What kind of birds are required to test negative for Salmonella Pullorum before they can be shown and / or otherwise exhibited?

- **ALL** birds, except pigeons or doves, are required to show proof of a negative Pullorum Test on form 9-2 which will be provided by the tester.

How do you know if the birds you purchase for showing have the correct documentation?

- Birds that come from an NPIP certified flock out of state should come with a form 9-3. The 9-3 form can be attached to the Poultry Exhibition Statement of Origin form.
- **All that is needed when showing or exhibiting an NPIP certified bird is a Poultry Exhibition Statement of Origin (SFN60329) form to be filled out at the time of purchase.**
- Most owners or distributors (feed stores, hatcheries, etc.) of NPIP certified poultry are aware of these forms and should have the forms on hand in their stores. Blank forms are also available on our website:

<https://www.ndda.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/files/SFN60329PoultryExh.pdf>

As a buyer, you can print and bring the form to the NPIP certified poultry seller or distributor that are selling chicks. If they are selling NPIP certified birds, they will have

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the contact information for the hatchery of origin as well as an NPIP number that is unique to each NPIP certified flock. This information is required to be documented on the form. This form should accompany the corresponding bird at each show/exhibit. Also, a safe (leg or wing) band should be placed on all birds intended for show/ exhibition. The color, type and location of each bird's band should also be noted on the corresponding Poultry Exhibition Statement of Origin form or on attached sheets.

- Please check North Dakota's Import Requirements for birds coming from out-of- state: [Birds | North Dakota Department of Agriculture](#)

Can birds from a non-NPIP certified flock still be shown / exhibited in ND?

- **Yes!** In fact, some poultry owners choose to breed and hatch their own birds for showing or they may wish to buy certain birds that do not come from a NPIP certified flock. **However, these birds are required to show proof of a negative Pullorum Test on form 9-2.** The owners of these birds will need to contact a certified testing agent and make arrangements to have their birds tested. A VS 9-2 form will be provided by the testing agent for those birds that test negative. The test is valid for 90 days and must accompany the bird at each show/exhibit. A safe (leg or wing) band should be placed on all birds intended for show or exhibit after they've been tested. The color, type and location of each bird's band should also be noted on the corresponding VS 9-2 paperwork.

How do I locate a Certified Testing Agent to test my birds?

- You may find a certified testing agent in your area by contacting your local 4-H leaders, NDSU county extension agent and/or veterinary clinics. Some veterinary clinics may have a *Salmonella pullorum* testing agent available to do the less expensive rapid test.
- You may also refer to our North Dakota certified testing agents contact list:
- [https://www.ndda.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/files/Authorized Poultry Testing Agent Public List 2024.pdf](https://www.ndda.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/files/Authorized_Poultry_Testing_Agent_Public_List_2024.pdf)
 - *(Testing Agents are not obliged to be available at any time to test other owner's birds, so we suggest you please make arrangements ahead of time to have your birds tested.)*

How much does it cost to have a testing agent test my birds?

- Certified testing agents work independently; they are free to set their own fee scale, and those fees may vary from one agent to another. Most testers ask for a small, c o s t e f f e c t i v e charge to cover the cost of testing supplies, labor and fuel.

Will the test hurt my bird?

- The risk of harm to your bird from being tested is generally low. The test requires only a drop of blood which is typically taken from the inside of a wing. Because feather removal, mild bleeding and bruising are all possible, it is recommended that you have your bird(s) tested at least a few days prior to the show / exhibit. If testing your bird, the day of a fair or exhibit is your only option, please be aware that the testing may temporarily affect the

appearance of your bird.

Do I need to keep my tested show birds separate from my non-tested birds?

- Yes. Birds that have been tested are still at risk to disease exposure by comingling with non-tested birds. Proper biosecurity should be practiced by housing the tested show birds in a separate enclosure and/or flight pen. Show/exhibition birds, that have been tested, should be kept from sharing the same space, feed and water containers with birds that have not been tested.

BANDS: Do I need to buy special or specific ID bands for my birds?

- No. Any **safe** leg or wing band will work fine. The choice of band is left up to the bird owner. In some cases, the testing agent might provide bands and may charge an additional fee for them. However, the choice of band is ultimately left up to the bird owner. The band should be safely attached to the bird in such a way that it does not cause any harm to the animal. The band type, color, location (*and/or id numbers on the band*) must be noted on each bird's paperwork. Some 4-H leaders and counties are adopting a numbering system to add to each band. In these cases, a wide band that can be written on with permanent marker are used.

A numbering system or specific ID band is not required by the ND State Board of Animal Health at this time as any safe band will do. *Please remember, if a numbering system is used, that number should be noted on the birds paperwork.***

Can the rapid plate test be used to test for Pullorum in all poultry?

The rapid plate test can be used in all poultry except for turkeys due to results not being as accurate. Turkeys tested by a testing agent with a 9-2 form is NOT permitted and will not be allowed at the exhibition. Instead, a blood test that is sent into an approved NPIP laboratory (South Dakota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab or Minnesota Poultry Lab) is required. Turkeys purchased from local feed stores more than likely originated from an NPIP flock. Those chicks from NPIP flocks including turkeys have already been Pullorum tested at the hatchery so all that is needed in such cases is a statement of origin form from the feed store that includes the hatchery's NPIP number.

How do I become a certified testing agent?

- Each state's requirement and process to become a certified testing agent may vary. North Dakota has held a testing agent course recently. You can contact the ND State Board of Animal Health to inquire when another course might be offered at 701-328-2655.

Do I need any special education or background in science to become a certified testing agent?

- No. The course is geared to provide all the information necessary to become a successful testing agent. Many people that have taken the course comment on its informative and user-friendly process.

If I become a testing agent, can I test my own birds?

- Yes, in fact many poultry owners of NPIP certified flocks do indeed become testing agents, so they can test their own flocks.

How can I become an NPIP certified flock owner?

- Becoming an NPIP certified flock owner is relatively easy and can be broken down into three steps:
 1. Complete and submit an NPIP application:
https://www.ndda.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/files/NatIPoultryImprovementPlanSFN54218_0.pdf
 2. Have a testing agent test your flock for *Salmonella pullorum* and submit those test results / VS 9-2 forms to the ND State Board of Animal Health; **and**
 3. An inspection of your poultry will be scheduled along with avian influenza testing.
- When those three steps have been successfully completed a unique NPIP number will be issued to you. After the initial flock testing, you will only need to test 10% of your flock annually as well as have an annual inspection completed to maintain your NPIP certified status.

What benefits can I expect as an NPIP flock owner?

- Many! First and foremost, you'll have peace of mind of being part of a network that owns a disease monitored flock as well as additional ease when buying or selling NPIP certified birds. As an NPIP certified producer you will have added ease in importation and exportation of your birds. And if you're an NPIP certified flock owner that is showing / exhibiting your poultry it will be a much simpler process since your birds are already tested.

If I'm not an NPIP certified flock owner, how long are my individual bird's *S. pullorum* tests valid?

- Birds purchased from an NPIP certified flock will come with a Poultry Exhibition Statement of Origin form. You may need to request the form at the time of purchase from the seller. The form serves as proof of testing, and it is valid for one year. These birds will need to be separated from your other birds until you are done exhibiting for the year.
- For non-NPIP certified birds a testing agent will provide a VS 9-2 form after the bird tests negative. The form is valid for 90 days.

I've heard that my birds also must be tested for Avian Influenza to show.

- No. Currently, Avian Influenza testing is not part of the testing requirement for show / exhibition birds. The State Veterinary Office does test NPIP flocks for Avian Influenza. This will add additional Avian Influenza disease clean status for their flocks. If you would like more information about it Avian Influenza testing, contact the Animal Health Division of the Department of Agriculture (701) 328-2655.